BING

No. 57

THE
INTERNATIONAL
CROSBY CIRCLE

Edited by REG BRISTO

I THINK OF BING .....

I have been going to write this piece for some time but am afraid it will sound too sentimental. I have decided that there is no way I can alter it because this is the way it was. Screw it up if its too much.

Bing helped a lot of us throughout his busy life - and still does with his records. Over and above this he did two great things for me. He helped me give up smoking, and he helped me to walk again. All this happened as a result of his last Palladium show.

I injured my spine in the 1960's and from then went through a period of bed, wheelchair, crutches and so on. I was walking slowly and painfully with a stick at the time of the show. I was very low and losing my confidence.

I treated myself to a box of cigars for the show. But as I entered and showed my tickets the usher said: "Sorry- no smoking sir."

I groaned. How could I stick two to three hours without a smoke?

Bing came on the stage and cast his spell on me. I didn't give smoking a thought. I swear I left my body. I knew nothing but Bing's voice and powerful personality 'til the end of the show. I staggered out in a daze.

That night I was too excited to sleep until the dawn. I lay thinking: 'If a man of seventy-three can have a nasty accident and then put on a performance like that - what was I doing, at forty odd, staggering about with a stick?'

I have neither used a stick or smoked since; and when my legs are very painful I think of Bing and that last Palladium show!

I still fall over sometimes, tho'....

Brian Ford
(East Twickenham, Midd'x)

* * * * * * * *

Bing's last interview

'My loyal British fans— the greatest'

THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE
1950-1980 30th ANNIVERSARY

15TH DINNER AND MEETING AT LEEDS : SUNDAY, 28TH SEPTEMBER 1980

3.00pm to 10.00 pm approx.

PROGRAMME:

Introductions..	Your host, Michael Crampton Hopefully your Secretary - Reg Bristo
Greetings as received and as appropriate.	
A Crosby Quiz..	With prizes.
Members' requests..	To be played throughout the period as time permits.
DINNER..	5.15pm to 6.15pm (approx)
GUEST SPEAKERS.	To be announced later.
Films...	Members to choose from those available at the event.

Additionally, there will periods for members to move around and get acquainted, or renew acquaintance as well as the opportunity to purchase records and books from the stalls provided.

A SOUVENIR BROCHURE WILL BE ISSUED TO
MEMBERS ATTENDING THE EVENT

Members wishing to attend should write to MICHAEL CRAMPTON, 19, Carrholm Crescent, Chapel Allerton, Leeds, LS7 2NL, W. Yorks Please include SAE and appropriate amount for tickets, which this year are £7.00. If in doubt, telephone Michael on 0532 689556 during the evenings or at week-ends.

The dinner is in accordance with the unanimous preference of last year's attenders.

Main course will be Roast English Lamb and all that goes with it!

Compared with last year's price the increase might be considered very reasonable. THOSE DESIRING ACCOMMODATION FOR THE SUNDAY NIGHT should inform Michael when they apply for their tickets.

Members who have records &c. for sale/exchange are welcome to bring them.

This is a significant milestone in the history of the ICC

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August, 1980

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Members overseas are particularly requested to note subscription rates. A strong £ (a mystery of us!) plus rising postal charges is playing havoc with our finances; times are difficult.

Secretary/Editor
REG BRISTO,
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C W M B R A N
GWENT, NP44 4PJ

Original Material (c) 1980

* * * * * * * * BING is dedicated to the imperishable memory of a great man and an entertainer beyond compare. * * * * * * *

Tape & Disc Consultants:
BERT BISHOP, 'Tideway' Imperial Avenue, Maylandsea, Chelmsford Essex -
JOHN BASSETT, 'Bingville' 15 Oast Way, Rochford, Essex.

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A "X" in the box indicates your subscription is due with this issue, or shortly afterwards. [X]

Warmest thanks to all contributors, letter-writters, senders of cassettes &c - and regrets that all just cannot be printed. They are appreciated.

The hardback discography is finished a.d a nice compact professional job it is; it is, however, awaiting the "front part", i.e. the A to Z. Johnny Joyce expects it to be available for Leeds (see announcement of dinner), and in any case it will be announced in the next issue of BING.

Peter Diffley is arranging for a supply of Larry Zwishon's very excellent book on Bing, A LIFETIME OF MUSIC from America; this should prove a boon to those who want the book but had no US avenue. Details in due course.

The end of this issue is another page of GEC shows to add to the ones printed last time; they can be detached and added to the existing ones.

An exception, also, is made to our "half-a-dozen lines" advertisements for the Keith Hyde disposal. When a world-class collection such as this magnitude is up for sale we think members should know, and have the opportunity to acquire. The portrait of Bing supplied by Mr. Justice Smith.

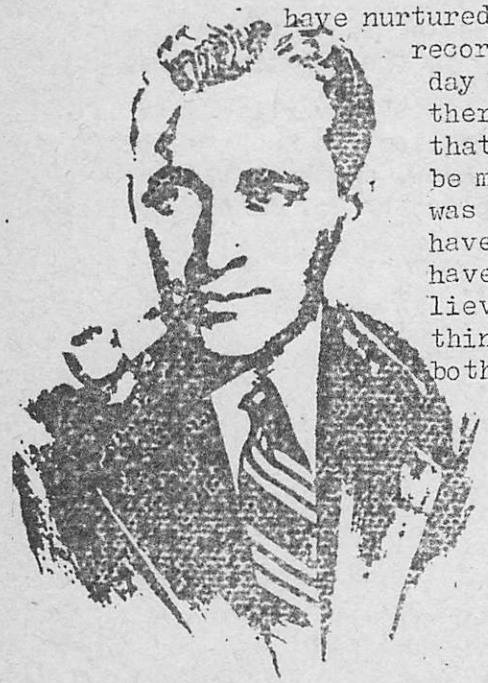
PRINCIPAL CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE: PAGE

The Leeds Dinner.. 4
Leslie Gaylor.. 7
"Part of our Culture" Greater London Council tribute 12
Homily by Bishop McCarick in New York. 14
The Palladium Medallion.. 16
Early American.. 18
Fromg Big Bands to TV: John Scott Trotter story .. 22
Research! On the air with Paul Whiteman 26
Letters.. 31
Around the world for Bing 35
Keeping Track.. 40
TRADING POST 43
I Recognise that Voice! 47

Editorial

It is difficult to resist a gleeful, masochistic smile when viewing the average record shop or department today. We say "average" for we are cognizant of the shops that do treat the gramophone record trade as a specialist business; that endeavour to cater for more than the rock and punk merchants....they are, sadly, very few. But the AVERAGE shop/department. When you have surveyed the "Country & Western" section which seems to predominate, records by good, fair but mostly indifferent artists, and the ELVIS SINGS AGAIN syndrome - there's little left! And on all sides it is proclaimed: "£1 OFF!", or "£2.00 OFF!" - or "BUY TWO, GET ONE FREE!!" They are, at long last, more or less stuck with their trashy wares. But the situation is too serious for smiles, masochistic or otherwise.

We are, to use the jargon, "in a recession". Nobody can doubt that. And assuredly one of the first "luxuries" to be dispensed with in such times are gramophone records. For years the big companies assiduously cultivated the rat-race million-in-a-week "gimmick" record; now, as we know, they are selling out for what they can get. To the extent that its difficult now to know whom owns which labels. There are, of course, other factors. Cassette-recording is or has cost the companies millions, they say. But here again, it was the industry that led the way: they openly advertised radio-cassette recorders, saying: "Now! RECORD YOUR FAVOURITE RADIO PROGRAMMES AT A TOUCH!" The public, especially the recently-affluent teenagers, happily complied. (We are not talking about the large-scale pirates who duplicate albums/cassettes in millions). Good men who knew their job have been made "redundant" by the big companies. And we, who have nurtured the hope that so many of the beautiful Crosby recordings that have never been reissued WOULD be one day must now be very, very, apprehensive. So really, there's nothing to smile about - even though the shops that disinterestedly left their record departments to be managed by teenagers in the belief that the golden-well was bottomless are stuck. Except, of course, those that have already closed down. Not an inconsiderable number have done just that. We are not naive enough to believe that endless Crosby reissues would have altered things materially; BUT more imaginative management by both companies and retailers, would have had the industry on a more stable basis than it is now shown to be. We can only hope that the "new-look" managements confound our gloom! No-one will be happier than we if they do.....



KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH

LESLIE GAYLOR

* My thanks to all those who contributed to the last issue of BING, again providing so much interesting reading.

I very much enjoyed the pleasure of meeting so many members of Crosbyana when I travelled up to Newcastle on May 3rd last for the Photo Club's event. Like most others, I believe, I was rather taken aback at the grandeur of the Civic Centre buildings that town has provided itself with; the journey up was particularly enjoyable for I made the trip in company with my good friend Ken Barnes who picked me up at Waterloo Station and we motored up the Motorway in great style.

Ken Barnes, being not only a record producer but a Bing record producer is an interesting as well as knowledgeable man and I suppose it was my endless questions to him that must have diverted his attention from the job in hand for we found ourselves on the way to Manchester! I think Ken made the point fairly enough when he pointed out that he never made such directional errors when he was travelling alone.

First call on our trip was in Gateshead to the home of Johnny Joyce where we received generous hospitality. More than that, we came away with leather-bound copies of THE CROSBY YEARS, specially bound in blue and gold by John. Arrived at Newcastle I met many other Bing admirers - truly kindred spirits. There was much hilarity at Phil Clarke's attempts to 'say a few words' on tape at Frank Murphy's request to tie in with the Newcastle event. Phil, of course, is the mainspring of the Southern Bing Crosby club in Portsmouth.

After the highly enjoyable 'main event' at the Civic Centre we returned to our hotel - where we were just in time to catch the Mary Crosby late-night interview on Pebble Mill. To most people's amusement this turned out to be a 'battle' to get a word in between Mary and her bubbling interviewer, Hayley Mills!

> I might have added earlier that on the way up to London we listened to the 24 unissued Bing-Buddy Cole-Pete Moore tracks that Ken Barnes still has on hand. This was exciting enough for I can't wait to get my hands on these fine re-recordings yet to be issued. But it was the manner in which I heard them that was so incredible.

On the preceding Thursday, May 1st, I happened to watch the BBC-TV programme TOMORROW'S WORLD. For the benefit of overseas readers this is a programme which shows many of the latest up-and-coming technical advances and inventions. On this particular transmission the latest 'in the world of sound' was shewn and this was a miniature pair of headphones connected to a very small cassette player. Viwers were shown, with the aid of electronic measuring equipment, the superiority of this little Japanese cassette player over current hi-fi equipment. The secret, apparently, is in the development of a tiny magnet in the headphones. I was most impressed.

> So imagine my astonishment when, soon after climbing into Ken's car at Waterloo, he said to me: "If you want to hear some really great sound listen to this." Lo and behold! it was one of those little players I had seen on TV the night before!

Truly the sound was sensational. Really magnificent. Ken told me these players are not yet on the market, not even in the States. He was the proud possessor of this one through the good offices of the well-known singer Jack Jones, with whom Ken had been making a second album in America. Ken Barnes had been spellbound at the sound and prevailed upon Jack to get him one through a special agency. Thus I heard the 24 CBS unissued tracks in quite unbelievable circumstances - and into the bargain Ken remarked that I should feel particularly honoured for it was only a short while before that Fred Astaire had tried them out!

> I have received countless letters from members, and indeed non-members regarding the COME SHARE THE WINE album; and I can report that the album has - and is - enjoying quite healthy sales. No doubt many non-members are hearing the tracks for the first time via this album. This would seem to confirm the commonsense, if not the gamble, taken by the creation of these re-recorded tracks.

There has been wide acclamation in particular for the title track, made in 1976 and now issued for the first time. In fact I don't feel it is putting it too high to say that this track has excited more comment than any other since Bing returned to 'serious' business in 1975 - and the view expressed by the Editor that this might have been issued as a "single" is widely endorsed.

The song was quickly on the air when Radio Solent received a copy, and presenter Heather Lynn in a telephone conversation with one of our members - MRS. MARGARET BILLINGTON - remarked that the record was a superb release, and with no prompting from Margaret said COME SHARE THE WINE should have been made available as a single. Certainly it should be said that Ken Barnes and his technical associates deserve praise for the manner in which they converted two rather unsatisfactory 'takes' into one highly satisfactory one.

And most happily letters show the same appreciation for the follow-up COME RAIN OR COME SHINE. As numerous members have pointed out the Crosby record scene would be a bit of a 'dead duck' without these two albums, though we mustn't overlook the two radio show albums, BING'S PARTY and BING'S MAGIC. These, to the credit of the producers, are not issues by the 'giants' however.

As I've indicated above - and particularly for the benefit of newer members - Ken Barnes has a further 24 of these CBS radio tracks, made by Bing in the 1950's with Buddy Cole but now up-dated with stereo and modern playing and arrangements by Pete Moore and his orchestra. That is, a further 24 UNISSUED. I've had much mail asking if Ken Barnes intends to obtain more than the 72 tracks he already holds of these CBS recordings. Well, the 24 referred to will be issued as two LPs - and then we must face the fact that this will probably be the 'end of the road' in this particular direction.

Bing Crosby Enterprises organisation are the sole owners of these recordings (and much else) and, of course, they are a purely business concern. And they are not particularly dedicated to supplying a few hundred diehard Crosby collectors, as a few of the latter seem to think! Ken's acquisition of what he has involved considerable negotiation as well as finance - which is why I so often reiterate what a debt we owe him. Most realise this, however.

I'm happy to report that STUDIO 4, a record shop in Ryde here on the Isle of Wight, have told me that they have sold out all copies of COME RAIN OR COME SHINE every week since it was released. The best-selling Bing record, they state, for many, many years. I hope this is an augury for what is happening elsewhere for such sales-success would surely make Ken think about acquiring more material from the Crosby enterprises.

> The many members who send me suggestions - even pleas! - for certain Bing tracks can rest assured that I work away quietly on Mr. Barnes when I get the chance! Among the songs particularly favoured are THANK HEAVEN FOR LITTLE GIRLS, COCKTAILS FOR TWO, FROM THIS MOMENT ON, AVALON TOWN, ITS A MOST UNUSUAL DAY, MAGIC MOMENTS to mention but a few. I am also urging on Ken some ideas for a Bing/Rosie album....

****

There was a letter in the last issue member Alex O'Hara reported hearing a Radio Eireann broadcast during which it was said, oddly, that no Bing recordings would be issued 10 years after his death. As I've been in almost constant touch with the Crosby office for many years with the ever-helpful Nancy Briggs, I wrote and asked if anything was known of this? Here is her reply:

> Dear Leslie,
> Thank you for your nice letter. Regarding the release of Bing's records ceasing after 10 years, we find hard to believe.
> Certainly he did not specify anything like that in his will. More important, the rights to his recorded material are held in the main by various companies - the majority by MCA (formerly Decca). I am sure the companies will continue to release material recorded by Bing as long as there is a demand for it, and surely there will be a demand for SHITE CHRISTMAS &c. for years to come. But who knows - the public can be fickle.
> Let's hope not and let's hope new fans come along every years.
>
> Sincerely,
> June 30, 1980 Nancy Briggs.

This clearly makes sense and disposes, I think, of that odd story.

****

Something else in the last issue intrigued me, too. This was my friend John Bignell's reference to TEMPTION which seemed to eagerly embrace a mild criticism of this record by Ken Barnes, in his book THE CROSBY YEARS. Just to add my personal view, I think it one of Bing's greatest-ever recordings, so obviously I don't agree with either John Bignell or Ken. For the period during which this song was recorded its technicalities are wonderful. The recording level and balance of the voice against the accompaniment is a factor I think needs and deserves to be taken into consideration. It is, I suggest, considerably better than many recordings made 30-40 years later.

To enlarge: many times in past years much of my mail from Crosby fans has commented unfavourably - very unfavourably - on the balance achieved between Bing's voice and the accompaniments. "Bing sabotaged..." was one comment bandied about. But that criticism certainly cannot be levelled at TEMPTATION. And this gives me the opportunity to write about something that has been on my mind for some time.

In 1967 I went to see Bing at the Connaught Hotel in London and he

warmly invited me to take tea with him and Kathryn. During the course of this highly pleasant occasion I happened to remark that the BBC dee-jays had played his then new record of a single, STEP TO THE REAR - a song from the Broadway show DOW JONES. Immediately Bing came back with: "What do YOU think of that recording, Leslie?"

"Well Bing," I replied, "you sing the song well, and it has a nice contemporary accompaniment - but the voice is too far back!"

"Yeah," Bing drawled, "that's what I thought - too much orchestra. But that's the way these fellas make records they days, Leslie."

Bing went on to say that primarily these days they like to show off the arrangement. Secondly, he mentioned that they like to present the instrumentation for stereo effect. "As regards the singer," Bing went on, "there's no guarantee it will be the singerAs record.

"Not like the old 78 days, when the golden rule was that the accompaniment should always enhance the voice and NEVER cover, or offer opposition to it."

Thus Bing, and I doubt there's many, if any, who would disagree with his point of view as expressed to me personally.

****

Many years later at the SEASONS album sessions we were waiting to hear a playback and I was sitting next to Bing. "I much prefer it, Bing, when your voice is presented 'forward'." Again he drawled in that inimitable Crosby manner, "Yeah, so do I."

On the last session for SEASONS Bing himself asked to hear a playback of SEPTEMBER SONG - a really first-class recording. When the playback started Bing moved from the control room which housed the comprehensive speaker system to a small studio where there was merely one small speaker. "I'm going in here," Bing said, "too many dynamics in there. I'm going to listen as if I was listening to a 78."
I sensed this was because of the loud volume on playback in the control room, but it services to show it seemed Bing liked the recording balance and technicalities of the 78.

Only recently I heard on BBC radio Max Bygraves, singer/comedian, playing Anne Shelton's superb recording of I REMEMBER THE CORNFIELDS made in the 1950's. Everything about it was so professionally done, and as it was obviously a 78, that Max was moved to say at its end: "Wasn't that lovely? You can tell that's not a new recording - you can hear the words!"

My warmest thanks to all writers - and a word for Phil Clarke's Southern Appreciation society who were so enthusiastic at hearing a test pressing of COME RAIN OR COME SHINE on their May 10 meeting - via the pressing given to me by Ken Barnes long before its general release.

****

Editor: Leslie so interesting as usual, especially when recalling his conversations with Bing. He has never reported this 78s conversation before but it so accords with what a lot of us feel. I find that Bing was saying what I have been trying to convey for years, too! I am firmly convinced that the modern method of multi-track recording presents the producer with an unnecessary problem of subsequent 'mixing'. But, they can't be shaken from it! Surely the proof of the un-necessity for it is plain. Take virtually any 78 of Bing's (or anyone else's for that matter) and the voice is

so beautifully 'forward' as Leslie says. Perhaps predominant serves, too. The accompaniment is purely complementary. Beautifully adequate, but NOT fighting for control of the record. True there are records where the accompaniment, especially in a non-vocal 'bridge' really captures the ear of the listener. EMBRASSE-MOI BIEN is a fine example where the strings are most imposing in their grandeur, pre-dating Mantovani, in fact!

And to be fair to John Bignell I think his dislike is actually of the song TEMPTATION, not so much to do with any technicalities of the recording! But that only compounds his 'offence' for among my vintage of Crosby fans, criticism of TEMPTATION is tantamount to heresy, sacrilege - even blasphemy! Its because of this song, incidentally, that I have a strong regard for any song which employs a strong bolero, or beguine, rhythm. As does TEMPTATION. However, as Leslie said in an accompanying letter: No-one is God in the record-preference sphere!

****

We needn't, surely, be surprised if Bing like the rest of us largely preferred the sound of the 78s. He was 'old-fashioned' - like so many of us. But one difference in records of the 'now' and the 'then' is effective - we can still HEAR the 'then' and 'now'. It would be idiotic in the extreme to deny the brilliant advances in recording techniques; those very advances forsooth serve to enhance even more the sound of 78s.

Stereo? Largely a non-event and, if one thinks about it, merely a stimulus to the record-player industry. Almost everyone had a record player. The industry was slack so, let 'em all buy a NEW one. A STEREO one! Thus we were all urged and brain-washed into getting stereo.

It might be conceded that in, say, a symphonic recording, it gives a fuller, rounder, concert-hall 'effect' - effect only though. But how come stereo on a VOCAL record? When one hears a singer in person, the voice comes from HIM - or HER, not bi-directional. In a large auditorium, of course, he would use a mike and then you would get the voice coming at you from varying angles. But it remains the same voice! The stereo <u>accompaniment</u> is merely diversionary - on times, unpleasantly and obtrusively so.

And, if one listens to stereo in the recommended situation, it means that only ONE person hears it correctly! For he or she has perforce to sit equi-distant from the two speakers - on an equal radius, so to speak. Which makes the whole thing, largely, a non-event. And if one gets more than about six feet from the speakers - equi-distant or not - the stereo effect is diminished almost entirely.

Bing spent around 30 years making 78s; a very exacting task, for if a mistake was made it all had to be done again. Consequently, everyone had to aim at an A1 performance - no splicing, mixing, grafting or other devices were available. Yet he took to the 'modern' methods as one would expect him to. He didn't have to like it! Even tho' it made his life easier - and the producer's what may well be described as a nightmare!

No doubt we will get plenty of mail on the subject.....if so, we will give a fair show, pro and con!

****

On the preceding page 10, two errors rather mar the sense: read it again, if you will, but read on line 9 "<u>these</u> days". And on line 30 (just over half-way down the page) read: "but it <u>serves</u> to show..."

— PART OF OUR CULTURE"

Towards the end of Bing's life there was a widespread belief, indeed a desire, that some British honour would be bestowed on him - apart that is from the widespread plaudits of the British people generally. Many of our members took active steps in an effort to bring this about. Alas, it didn't happen. British protocol is world-famed for its rigidity and the Establishment seems to follow unyielding rules. Honours mainly are awarded to 'foreigners' for exceptional services and those mainly in War-time. It could be argued that Bing qualified on both those counts. Perhaps it was felt that Sir Bing was not quite pukka, and that Lord Crosby was overdoing it!

Bing did, of course, receive many honours and presentations in Britain during his latter-day visits - plaques, memorials, etc. especially during his 'sporting' visits - golfing, fishing, the turf. But perhaps the one of which he was proudest (we never found out) was the signal honour presented to him in the form of a scroll by the Greater London Council during the summer of 1976. No doubt his reception at Buckingham Palace by Prince Philip was also highly regarded by Bing.

Both events received a measure of publicity in the National press but it is felt that few of our members have ever seen the full text of the illuminated scroll Bing received. Thanks to a quite incredible coincidence, our member PAT FORSTER, now living in Midhurst, West Sussex, found that one of her new near-neighbours was actually the man who executed the scroll! He received photographs, both of the presentation and his scroll from the London Council, and has permitted Pat to pass us the full text of the scroll. We are delighted to be able to present this in BING with thanks both to Pat and the executor.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME TO MR BING CROSBY

BY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL AT THE COUNCIL MEETING ON 29 JUNE 1976.

We, the Chairman and Members of the Greater London Council on behalf of the people of London extend to you a very warm welcome on your visit to Britain's Capital City.

*****

Your association with this country, and with London in particular, is a long and distinguished one. Many people still remember with gratitude how, during the Second World War you came to these islands at your own expense and gave so much of your time to entertain our troops and help boost their morale. Your regular trans-Atlantic commuting has made you one of

the most distinguished and best-loved ambassadors of the United States and you have proclaimed your love of this country, and especially of London, both publicly and privately on many occasions.

During this time you have dedicated yourself without ostentation to many charitable causes in Great Britain. Indeed, you are generously donating the entire net proceeds from your present two-week engagement at the London Palladium to three British charities - the National Playing Fields Association, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and the National Society for Cancer Relief. You are also participating in a number of fund-raising celebrity golf tournaments, as well as helping the British Tourist Authority with a film to be called "Bing's Britain" On top of all this, you are giving much material help and encouragement to the Ochtertyre Theatre in Crieff, Perthshire. We wish you every success in this venture - as also we wish every success to your wife Kathryn who will shortly be acting there in "The Heiress".

As an artist of world stature and in your 50th year in show business, you have appealed to so many people in this country - and particularly in this our capital city - for so long that your art has become a part of our culture and your visit, therefore, an occasion of national significance.

We offer our sincere good wishes for your continued health and well-being in the coming years and, as a token of the esteem and affection in which all London regards you, we present you with this scroll not only as a memento of your present visit but in appreciation of all you have done for this country and for our city over so many years.

Signed: Right Honourable the Chairman of the Council.

Signed: Director-General and Clerk to the Council.

We are very pleased that we have the opportunity to put the contents of this illuminated scroll on record.

"Part of our culture" ...indeed, a most telling phrase.

And it is probably appropriate for us, at this particular point, to beg the indulgence of our overseas members for the inclusion of the page in this issue wherein Bing proclaims his British fans the greatest in the world. But we are proud of this particular remark of Bing's.

HOMILY BY BISHOP McCARICK FOR MASS FOR BING CROSBY

Following our fortunate acquisition of the text of the scroll presented to Bing by the Greater London Council, by quite a coincidence we received the text of the homily delivered by Bishop McCarick at a mass for Bing held at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City on October 17, 1977

This was through the good offices of member Mr. Justice Francis X. Smith of the Supreme Court of New York. It may be argued that we are vastly out-of-date with these documents, but it should be borne in mind that neither this, nor the GLC text, have ever been published anywhere. Francis took advantage of friendship with Bishop McCarick who, in sending the text, wrote:

> Dear Frank,
>
> Several months ago you were kind enough to write me and to ask for a copy of the Eulogy which I was privileged to deliver for Bing Crosby.
>
> After much exploration through the caverns and labyrinths of my filing system, I have found same, and I am happy to send it along to you....

Mr. Justice Francis X Smith immediately sent it to us, feeling we would find it of interest. Here it is:

> EULOGY AT MASS HELD IN ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, NEW YORK CITY.
>
> There is always a touch of sadness in the leaving of a friend, but this sense of absence becomes all the more poignant when the friend's departure has the finality of death and when his own life was so vital and so magnetic that it reached into the lives of millions.
> And so today we mourn the end of the earthly presence of our friend Bing Crosby. In a career that stretched a half-century he carved out a special place in the hearts of Americans. He has left us so much to remember - his engaging smile and the warmth of his personality, the amiable nonchalance of his style as an entertainer, his success as a flawless interpreter of America's mood in song. These are the things so many of us will remember. They made Harry Lillis Crosby an unforgettable figure in the history of American entertainment.
> But they do not tell us the whole story. They do not explain the wonderful outpouring of affection and respect which has covered America and other parts of the world during the last few days since his death. The explanation of that phenomena goes deeper.
>
> Bing Crosby was not just a good entertainer. He was a good man.
>
> He was a family man who devoted himself first and foremost to his responsibilities as a husband and father; he was a generous man who knew that God gives both talent and its rewards to be shared with others and to be used in proper stewardship for the good of many; he was a deeply Christian gentleman who never apologised for his convictions or for

his morality.

At a moment of history when the anti-hero is still exalted by the pens of authors and script-writers, when the immorality of the characters in a senario are, alas, all too often emulated in the lives of the actors who portray them; when it is in to be out of touch with the basic moral values, there must be millions of men and women in the families of America of every creed and race and color who look at the life of a man like Bing Crosby and say "Thanks be to God".

I think this is why so many are saddened by his death and why he will be remembered with such affection.

Those of us who in the mystery of God's Providence have received the gift of faith believe that every life is a journey to God. We believe that at the end of that road, The Almighty Father waits for us. In His loving mercy, He longs to embrace us all in an eternity of happiness and peace. But in His unerring justice, He cannot reward us if we come to Him laden with a life of selfishness and full of evils done to our fellowmen.

Bing Crosby travelled the road of life for seventy-three years. We rejoice now because we know that he is not found emptyhanded at the journey's end, but that he brings along with him the good deeds and the kindnesses that filled his life. And so today, as we send our prayers to Heaven on his behalf, we can thank God for the witness of his charity and his faith.

To his wife and children and to his lifelong friends, through this Mass of the Resurrection, the Cardinal and the Church of New York offer sympathy and affection. The death of a good man is always a moment of sadness, but we believe that it ushers in an eternity of joy.

The bells of St. Mary's should ring no dirges now. Our friend, Father O'Malley, has gone home to God.

Mr. Justice Smith further informs us that the Cathedral was completely filled with an overflow crowd and loudspeakers were set up in the streets for the benefit of those who were unable to get into the Cathedral.

The lad from Spokane certainly travelled a long, long way..... And - our thanks to Francis Smith.

BELOVED BY ALL

1903 - 1977

THE PALLADIUM MEDALLION

On pages 18 and 19 of the last issue of BING we reprinted a series of letters which arose from the proposal of the sculptor of the Palladium plaque to produce miniatures of that plaque in the form of a medallion. We also said that any further correspondence would be passed on; there has been further correspondence as follows:

Law Offices of
WILSON, SONSINI, GOODRICH & ROSATI
Professional Corporation

April 30, 1980

Dear Mr. Bristo,

Thank you for your letter of April 20, 1980. I wanted to convey my apologies for my earlier letter of March 26, 1980. The letter in no way reflects the sentiments of the Crosby family, however, as you aptly pointed out in the last paragraph of your letter, it is difficult to delineate between respectful remembrance of the late Mr. Crosby, and exploitation of the name or likeness. As you may be aware, here in the United States questions have been raised as to the rights of survivors of a celebrity to restrict the use of the celebrity's name after his death. The only manner in which the Crosby family will be able to control use of the name is for them to take action as to each unauthorized use. This is not to say that they must prevent all unauthorised uses, but rather that they must take action either to consent to such use or take action to stop such use. Only in this way do they protect their right to take action against persons who would use Mr. Crosby's name in a way that would be objectionable, not only to the family, very possibly to persons such as yourself who feel strongly that the image of the late Mr. Crosby should not be tarnished in any fashion.

I hope the foregoing gives you an idea of why action must be taken even in situations which might astonish persons such as yourself.

Very truly yours,
WILSON, SONSINI, GOODRICH & ROSATI

Roy L. Farrow.

PHILIP NATHAN LTD.
Old Pound Cottage, Alfold,
Nr. Cranleigh, SURREY.

Dear Mr. Bristo,
I thought I would let you know that I have written to the Crosby family's lawyers to suggest that they might consider allowing the project of selling the plaque miniatures on the basis of a royalty payment.
I have had no response at all to my initial requests sent to Mrs. Crosby.
You must regret having ever become involved in this idea in the first place and I'm sorry it has not gone very well.
In the last resort, I will manufacture copies for those who have

ordered and take a loss so that there can be no question of exploitation and I can at least honour my commitment.

Kindest regards,
PHILIP NATHAN.

Editor: The only regrets I have, it is sufficient to add, on this subject are for Mr. Nathan who clearly emerges as a man of integrity.

TREVOR WAGSTAFFE, one of our members in Hornchurch, Essex has come up with a good idea: It is that as many of us as possible write to the BBC requesting 'repeats' of the shows Bing did with Michael Parkinson. A considerable weight of letters requesting this from our members might very well induce the BBC to re-screen these most interesting shows. Your co-operation is cordially invited: write to THE PARKINSON SHOW, BBC TV Centre, Wood Lane, London, W12. If we suggest on or around October 14 the idea could easily bear fruit.

All of us were sickened and ashamed when, during his last visit here, Bing's flat was burgled and treasured items were stolen. Characteristically, Bing was philosophical about it - as ever - understanding that every big city in the world, alas, is subject to its crime rate. Now at least the items have been recovered. The following appeared in the NEW YORK POST on 7th March last (among all leading papers, of course):

BING CROSBY may be gone, but his antique gold snuffbox, 18th century gold cigaret case and cherished Russian icons have come back into wife Kathy's life. Only three days before the crooner died in 1977, the antiques, worth about 50,000 dollars were stolen from his London flat. Their loss was to become particularly keen - because they were the last gifts Bing ever gave Kathy. Now her heart is soaring. Police have found the goods and arrested a suspect.

Letter, accompanied by a picture of Bing, in a national paper:

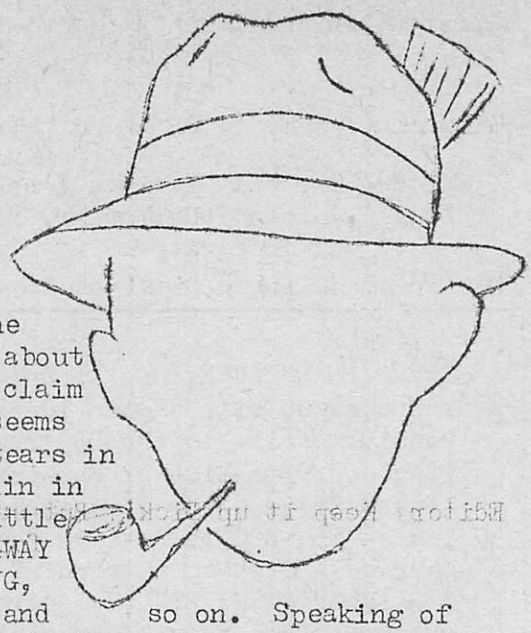
"I am retired now, but I understand teenagers screaming and fainting at pop concerts. I had the same sensation in 1934 when my boy friend wrote to me from London, saying that I must see a certain film and note a certain tune. It was Bing Crosby in WE'RE NOT DRESSING. The tune MAY I?. I'll never forget that cinema rocking around me.

(Mrs.)C. WARBURTON
Warrington, Cheshire.

Editor: Ay, we remember it too! One of thousands of lovely moments Bing gave us....the lady isn't an ICC member....

Dick Nettleton (Fakingdon, Oxon) writes: I have just scored a century and at close of play was 105 not out. This is the number of songs I now have on tape which mention Bing in the lyric. Those members who have been searching for a Kate Bush song about December which refers to Bing should watch for a BBC-TV programme entitled "Kate", postponed in June on account of the musicians' strike but BBC say it WILL be broadcast soon

EARLY AMERICAN



How American was Bing? Very much so; he was clearly always proud and patriotic about America. How Irish was Bing? Much is claimed about his Irish ancestry....and it seems fairly well substantiated that he had tears in his eyes when he first set foot in Dublin in the 1960's. But then, we all feel a little Irish by the time we've listened to GALWAY BAY, EILEEN, WHEN IRISH EYES ARE SMILING, McNAMARA'S BAND, THE ISLE OF INNISFREE and so on. Speaking of nationality, however, is dangerous ground. Or can be. For centuries men have warred and otherwise fought over 'their country', 'their land', over their 'flag'.....

Yet there are those who aver that mankind is totally lost unless he can rise above this 'patriotism'. What is earth - but dirt? How can it matter so much WHERE you are born? What is a flag but dyed linen? Its monstrous, they maintain, that men should fight to the death for such things. The brotherhood of man should forget 'lands' and flags....

Well, its a subject for individual reflection and decision no doubt and we certainly have no wish to get profound, or even involved! But we do get a lot of correspondence on Bing's ancestry on the lines that open this feature above. Indeed, we seem to have some diligent genealogists on the roll!

They, and no doubt others, will therefore be interested in an article that has come our way which goes a long way to answer the questions. At the time of Bing's passing, a prominent US newspaper appointed a team of investigators to delve into Bing's ancestry. The newspaper was the NATIONAL ENQUIRER and with grateful acknowledgements to that paper, and thanks to our members who forwarded us copies, we hope the findings will be of interest:

BING CROSBY'S ROOTS

Bing Crosby's roots went deep in American history, running back to 1635 - and his family tree was filled with picturesque characters. The Old Groaner's ancestors fought in the American Revolution, War of 1812, and the Mexican War; sailed the seven seas; settled the wild Oregon Territory, and were merchants in faraway Hong-Kong. They included:

* A Puritan who preached about fire and brimstone on Sunday - but prospered selling whiskey and gunpowder the rest of the week.
* A Cobbler who risked his life to spy for George Washinton
* A swashbuckling sea captain who helped cement America's claims to California and Oregon, then helped open trade with China.
* Another fiery old sea-dog who made the treacherous round-the-Horn voyage from Boston to Oregon at 67 - then promptly turned round and sailed right back!

These are just some of the many fascinating facts uncovered by a special ENQUIRER team of ex-

perts assigned to dig up the roots of Bing Crosby.

The Crosby family history in America began with Simon Crosby (1608-1639), a Puritan who fled England to escape religious persecution. He arrived in Boston in 1635, cradling his 5-month-old son Thomas 2nd in his arms.

Using money from his father, Thomas, Simon bought a homestead in Cambridge, Mass., where he became a respected city official.

Here, beginning with Simon's son Thomas 2nd, are capsule histories of Bing Crosby's ancestors.

THOMAS CROSBY 2nd (1635-1702)

Thomas 2nd had been slated to receive a sizable inheritance from his father - but it was placed in jeopardy when Simon's widow married an irresponsible minister who mishandled the family's money and later became a virtual madman.

However, a local judge stepped in to protect Thomas' rights, and he apparently got his full inheritance. Thomas later became one of the handful of students to gain admittance to prestigious Harvard College. He wasn't a brilliant student, however, and when he graduated in 1653 he was last in his class of eight.

Thomas became a minister in Eastham, Mass., but his salary was small - so he became a merchant on the side. He sold liquor, gunpowder and ammunition - apparently preaching about hell and brimstone to people on Sunday, then on the other six days of the week selling them the means to get there!

Thomas' wife bore him 12 children. His second son, Simon 2nd (1665-1718) had a colorless life working as a merchant in Barnstable County, Mass., and fathered 14 children.

Simon 2nd's third child named Nathaniel (1695-1780) also lived and died in obscurity. He fathered seven children, among them a namesake, Nathaniel 2nd.

NATHANIEL CROSBY 2nd (1733-1827)

Born in Harwich, Mass., Nathaniel 2nd went to sea shortly after the Revolutionary War broke out. In 1775 he was assigned to the sailing ship Independence, which guarded Boston Habor. In 1776, Nathaniel and a handful of fellow sailors were ordered to sail up the rocky coast in a tiny sloop to Casco Bay, Maine, to defend a bank of cannons against a British attack.

But the weeks turned into months and no attack came. Lesser men would have gone home because as winter approached the voyage back to Boston became extremely dangerous - but Nathaniel and his crew-mates stayed.

When they decided to turn back, it was almost too late. The voyage back home became a frightening brush with death as severe storms constantly blew the little sloop against the rocky Maine coast - but they finally reached Boston.

While Nathaniel was in Casco Bay, a second cousin was becoming a hero, too.

His name was Enoch Crosby, the great grandson of Thomas, a cobbler and a soldier in the Continental Army. Enoch, 23, was returning to camp when he learned of a planned sneak attack on patriots by a band of Tories - men sympathetic to the British. Enoch raced to the camp and told famed patriot John Jay who sent Enoch and a band of cavalry to jail the Tories.

Enoch subsequently became a master-spy - posing as a Tory cobbler and roaming the state to learn enemy plans. Later he joined the British Army and transmitted military secrets to Washington's Army, risking certain death if caught. After the War, Congress voted him a grant for his services, but Enoch refused it, saying it was "not for gold" that I served my country.

Nathaniel 2nd, meanwhile, married and became a church deacon after the War. His wife Mary bore him two children. One became his namesake.

NATHANIEL CROSBY 3rd (1782-1867)

Nathaniel 3rd was a feisty ship captain who was still braving hazardous oceans at age 67.

As a young man he established a prosperous shipping business along the Eastern seaboard. But when the War of 1812 came along he willingly became a soldier, taking up arms at least three times to defend local towns.

Nathaniel dropped his shipping business again at 67 - when he packed up his family and sailed off to Oregon to begin a new life there.

The 130-day voyage around South America's storm-swept Cape Horn was filled with danger. But when Nathaniel reached Oregon, he stayed only long enough to make sure shipping businesses started by his three sons were going well - then incredibly, the independent old salt turned around and made the same trip back!

Nathaniel's three sons - Clanrick, Alfred, and Nathaniel 4th - stayed behind in Oregon.

NATHANIEL CROSBY 4th (1810-1859)

Nathaniel 4th was a swashbuckling dea captain who helped save America's claim to the Far West - then helped open trade with China.

Born in Brewster, Mass., he made the treacherous journey round Cape Horn four years before his father. Upon arriving in the wild Oregon territory Nathaniel started a lumber shipping business.

When the Mexican War broke out in 1846, Nathaniel was commissioned by the US government to ferry supplies to settlers along the West Coast - dodging Mexican patrol boats along the way.

The government feared that if the settlers were starved out, all claim to California and Oregon would be lost forever.

But by successfully supplying the coastal settlers with provisions, Crosby played a critical role in securing the US claim to what is now California and Oregon.

After the War, Nathaniel's business flourished. But in 1852 he made a business trip to Hong Kong and apparently got wanderlust - for afterwards he abandoned his business and took his family with him on a round-the-world voyage.

It ended in Hong Kong where he settled down again as a merchant.

Nathaniel 4th had three children. One carried his name forward.

NATHANIEL CROSBY 5th (1837-1885)

Schooled in Hong Kong, Nathaniel 5th learned to speak Chinese. But when his father died, he gave up his life of ease for the frontier life of America's West Coast.

In 1860 Nathaniel 5th arrived in Washington and went to work in a logging mill owned by his uncle Clanrick. He married, fathered two children, and later became a successful merchant. But then Nathaniel sank his money into a steamship business - and it folded. He was reduced to taking a job as postmaster in Olympia, Wash., where he died in 1885. He left two children. One was named Harry Lowe Crosby.

HARRY LOWE CROSBY (1870-1950)

Harry Lowe married an Irish girl, Catherine Harrigan, in 1893 and converted to her religion, Catholicism - changing the family's faith after centuries of fiery Protestantism.

Harry was a bookkeeper at the courthouse in Tacoma, Wash., but later moved to Spokane when he lost his job. He became a bookkeeper in a Spokane brewery. Harry liked to gamble occasionally, and loved music - he was always playing a mandolin, singing, or listening to records at home.

Harry and Catherine had seven children. Their fourth child was named Harry Lillis Crosby....but the world came to know and love him as "Bing".

Editor: How much is true and how much is romancing must be anybody's guess....its thought-provoking at least. For instance, Bing could have been born in - Hong Kong! And if you go back far enough - Bing was English! I wonder what we would all find out - if we were able to go back far enough? No doubt there would be plenty of shocks and surprises. In England, we could easily find out one of our ancestors had been hanged - for stealing a sheep.

More seriously, however, one facet that seems loaded with significance is that for his 'second' family Bing reverted to ancestral names so that the present young Nathaniel is the 6th, while Harry is the 3rd. The significance is that Gary, Philip, Lindsay and Dennis names do NOT appear in the Crosby family tree. Until they had them, that is. There <u>is</u> a strong chain of successful merchandising running thro' this account of the Crosby family and it might be said Bing and his brothers maintained that.

And as we know, the Irish strain comes from Mrs. Crosby Sen., nee Harrigan. The Harrigans went straight to North America from Ireland, it seems, but

we have no indication as to whether Bing's mother was a direct immigrant or a several-generations American - like the Crosby's.

We can safely conclude that there must have been some good strong baritone singers on the Crosby side throughout those generations - itinerant troubadours no doubt! But of course, that's all one could be in those far-off days, with radio, records, films, TV all undreamed-of miracles.

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And still on the genealogical syndrome our member MERVYN J. THOMAS of Worthing, was one of many who finally made the trip to the States earlier this year. With a name like that it came as no surprise to your Editor at least to learn that Mervyn was visiting various relatives from antecedents of his who had emigrated to America - from Dowlais in South Wales! Mervyn's momentous trip took in Canada, too, for it was to Vancouver first they went, where the 1880 immigrants settled in the coal-mining town of Nanims. Mervyn writes:

"After a week I hired a car and after some confusion over driving on the right (wrong!) side of the road drove down to San Francisco where we stayed with another cousin whose grandfather went to California in 1849 as a young man from Llangalfa, Anglesey. His son was one of the founders of the Cable car line and was superintendent of the Market and Powell St. lines until his retirement. His son (the cousin with whom I stayed) was supervisor in the head SF Post Office nearly all his working life. He could, as a boy of four, remember the fire and earthquake of 1906 when their house was dynamited to prevent the fires from spreading; they had to live in Concord for a year while their father rebuilt their home. He's a wonderful character and a mine of information.....

...subsequently I drive down to Laguna Hills, 50 miles south of Los Angeles where we stayed with yet another cousin, this time on my mother's side - a Rowlands...she introduced one of her friends, a Mrs. Andrew T. Kinghorn, who said that her brother was the late John Scott Trotter and seemed very surprised when I asked 'Not THE John Scott Trotter?' She took us to her apartment and showed us all the records, photos, music, mementoes, etc. - and the enclosed article!"

Now Bing Crosby and John Scott Trotter are probably as inseparable in our minds as Bing and Bob Hope, Bing and Blue of the Night, yet surprisingly, we've never learned too much about JST which is surprising considering that he was Bing's principal musical director, conductor, arranger &c. on records (well over 300 recordings), radio all through from mid-30's to the 50's, as well as several films. Now thanks to Mervyn Thomas and his travels we have the following in-depth story on John Scott Trotter.

This story appeared in a magazine issued by the VAIL University of Denver, Colorado, in 1975.

It will be seen that John Scott Trotter, though in semi-retirement, was busy, happy, and full of plans. But, sadly, he must have died shortly after the article appeared. It will be remembered that Bing took John Scott's death very badly. "I loved that man," he is said to have declared at the time.

(story next page.....

FROM BIG BANDS TO TV
JOHN SCOTT TROTTER'S 50-YEAR CAREER

BY CHANDLER HARRIS

Of all the famous Delta Sig leaders of big bands of the Thirties - Ted Weems, Hal Kemp, Jan Garber, John Scott Trotter, Skinnay Ennis - only one, John Scott Trotter, Alpha Delta '26, is still an active musician today.

Although he looks upon himself as semi-retired, no one with as many projects, commitments and interests has a right to use the term. At 66, he still has the youthful enthusiasm for his work characteristic of much younger men. This, despite the fact that his 50-year professional record as a musician, music director, arranger and composer has already included three or four outstanding careers.

He is, in fact, so busy that he seldom makes the 60-mile drive to his home in Laguna Hills, California, spending most of his time in his Hollywood studio appartment, where his piano is one of the most conspicuous pieces of furniture in his living room. The apartment, he laughingly says, has "a lived-in" look, but it is dominated by an elegantly-carved mantel, and it contains such unusual items as a 400 B.C. Grecian vase and a breakfront full of antique Chinese export porcelain in the willow-ware pattern, perhaps the most complete collection in Los Angeles.

One day in late February, he took an hour or so from his busy schedule (though he was preparing for a run-through the following day for a projected movie score) to recall some of the events which led to his long association with Bing Croshy, George Gobel, and the Peanuts television specials. Thinner now than twenty years ago when his hefty contrast to diminutive George Gobel was a standard source of gags on the Gobel show, he has switched to black horn-rimmed glasses which give him a somewhat scholarly appearance.

There is, however, nothing withdrawn about his manner; he is affable and gracious in a way which bespeaks his Southern heritage. He is also obviously an educated man, and no one would guess without being told that his formal career at the University of North Carolina lasted little more than one semester.

Trotter was only 16 in 1926 when he left the Charlotte, N.C. high school where he had been student body president to enter the university at Chapel Hill. There he ran into Hal Kemp, whom he had known in high school and who had joined Alpha Delta Chapter in 1923. Kemp had formed an earlier band on campus, the "Carolina Club", had gone to Europe, and had come back to New York and joined the Paul Specht orchestra for a time. Now, returning to the university, Kemp had thrown away his saxophone and was never going to pick it up again. This resolution lasted two weeks into the fall semester, and Trotter found himself in the new Hal Kemp orchestra, along with another Delta Sig pledge, Skinnay Ennis, who somehow was never initiated. John already knew Skinnay, because Skinnay came from Salisbury, N.C., where John's grandparents lived, and he had played with him in a summer resort orchestra at Crystal Lake. Among the other early Hal Kemp orchestra members were Harry Pond from New Orleans, who played the long-necked banjo, and Dick Mackie, a trumpet player who played great New Orleans jazz, sometimes with his horn in a galvanized bucket.

The growing reputation of the band led to an Easter vacation engagement at the Metropolitan Theater in Atlanta, but a conflict arose, since the engagement overlapped the reopening of school by a couple of days. "We asked the dean for permission to be late returning to school, and since the academic standing of the band wasn't good, the Dean said 'You had better be back when you are supposed to be, or don't come back at all' Trotter recalled. 'We decided the engagement was more important, so we all dropped out, Hal in the middle of his junior year and the rest of us as freshmen

Though no longer in school, Trotter

continued to live in the Delta Sig house while the band got its start. Through the recreation manager of a summer resort at Hendersonville they met Fred Waring, who arranged for the orchestra to play in Toronto and at Shay's Hippodrome, a theater in Buffalo.

"We were not very theatrically oriented, and we just say there and played," said Trotter. "We did have one flashy thing: we had Christmas tree lights in the saxophones, and Hal added a pedal which he could operate in tempo so that the lights would flash on and off, and that was practically our act, except doing a little singing in unison.

"The manager came back stage at the theatre in Buffalo and said 'Can't somebody introduce the numbers?' So between shows, Hal and Saxie Dowell got together and decided the introductions should be humorous. On the next show Hal got up - he was rather gawky at that time - and said 'Our next number will be I'M GOING TO EAT BEETS UNTIL I BLUSH. Absolutely NOTHING from the audience, so he sat down, and we played whatever the next tune was, and the manager came back and said 'Just play!'

Before long the band got a job at the Strand Roof over the Strand Theater at 47th and Broadway in New York, and its success there led to a series of one-nighters on the road. 'Sometimes you'd go to the next town the same night after a job and you wouldn't get to the hotel until nearly the next morning, but at least you'd wake up where you were going to play. Of course, we were young, and it was really a great experience.'

In 1929 or 1930 Trotter began to make arrangements for the band; his first was MUDDY WATERS. After the band went to England in 1930 he arranged a number of English tunes: HEART OF STONE, DINNER FOR ONE PLEASE, JAMES, and GOT A DATE WITH AN ANGEL (which later became Skinnay Ennis' theme song when he had his own band).

As he looks back on it now, "with 20-20 hindsight" Trotter sometimes wishes he had written more songs of his own in the Kemp days rather than arranging the tunes of others. "I really should have been composing then - I'd have had my choice of really good lyric writers because we had good radio time, and the band was a good plug."

Nevertheless, the Trotter arrangements helped develop the distinctive Kemp style and GOT A DATE WITH AN ANGEL was one of the catalysts which led to the orchestra's status as a big name band; it was included in the first group of recordings to be nominated for the Record Hall of Fame of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences.

One Trotter contribution was the singing introduction to GOT A DATE, it was CLIMBING UP THE LADDER OF LOVE TO FIND THE ONE WHO WAITS FOR ME, a phrase from a different song, probably from Earl Carroll's 'Vanities'. The singing introduction was picked up by others, notably by Kay Kyser, who had been a Sigma Nu at North Carolina when Trotter was there ("I always say Kay was the only cheer-leader who made good").

Another feature of GOT A DATE arrangement, the ending in a staccato inverted pyramid of instruments, influenced the style of others bands, especially Richard Himber's.

In 1936 Trotter went to California on vacation, and a friend, Johnny Burke, asked him if he'd like to do the arrangements for a new Bing Crosby movie, PENNIES FROM HEAVEN. Trotter declined since he was on vacation, but he later agreed to help composer Arthur Johnson with a couple of piano scores, and he 'fell in love with the tunes'. He soon found himself orchestrating the title song and four others.

A year later when he was back in New York working for the American Record Company, he got a telegram asking if he could come back to Hollywood to take over the music on Bing Crosby's Kraft Music Hall radio program, since Jimmy Dorsey wanted to get back East to cash in on his band's exposure on the show. Within a week, Trotter arrived on the Coast to begin an association with Crosby which lasted professionally for 17 years and continues today as a warm personal friendship.

John recalls now that his first meeting with Bing had occurred some years earlier when Crosby was singing with

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Paul Whiteman. One night, about 3am when the Kemp band was rehearsing new material after an evening performance, Hoagy Carmichael chose a novel way to plug a new song with the band. Running into the hall he took a dive onto the dance floor and slide all the way across it holding up a musical manuscript. It was STARDUST. The friend with him cheering him on was Bing.
As Crosby's musical director for radio, Trotter worked on the Kraft, Philco, Chesterfield and General Electric shows. One of the several hundred records Bing made with a Trotter accompaniment was WHITE CHRISTMAS, one of the first five recordings elected to the Record Hall of Fame. It sold more than 25 million copies and is the all time best-selling single.

In 1954, when the Crosby series came to an end, Trotter moved to the George Gobel TV show on NBC, becoming musical director and "Uncle John" in the Gobel routines for the rest of the 50's.

Since the Gobel years, John has done free-lancing on various specials, and most recently he has worked during the last few years on the 'Peanuts' specials such as 'The Great Pumpkin','He's your dog, Charlie Brown' and 'You're not elected, Charlie Brown'. The next one on the schedule is set for October.
These days he spends more time composing; currently he has just completed a score for a proposed Disney film with lyricist Tom Adair. In this collaboration, Trotter and Adair almost never work together directly; John prefers to get the Adair lyrics to music. "Good lyrics inspire me, and sometimes Tom will come up with a verse form that I would never think of if I were writing the tune first," he said.
Trotter is a natural musician, but his composing is not self-taught; he studied with famed classical composer Ernst Toch, who himself has written extensively for the motion picture field. "The great thing he taught me was to have no inhibitions in songwriting; I don't follow the conventional AABA form." e.g. eight bars, eight bars, bridge, eight bars as in most one-time popular songs.

Another Trotter interest which almost reached the vocational level is antiques. He comes by the interest honestly, since his Quaker ancestors go back to the early 1700's in Nansemond County, Virginia. John began collecting 18th century English and American antiques, and eventually he opened a shop in Laguna with his sister and her husband. At one time in the 50's he was even president of the Antique Dealers' Association of Southern California. He is working on a book of antique collecting which he hopes to finish if he ever has the time. "All the research has been done, but getting it all together is something else; maybe I'll get around to it in time."

One thing he has made some time for recently is Guide Dogs for the Blind, a Northern Californian organisation with headquarters in San Rafael. Trotter belongs to the rustic but fashionable Bohemian Grove on the Russian River somewhat north of that City and a friend had driven him down from the Grove on a couple of occasions to see the dogs and their blind masters learning to work together. When the organisation started a Southern Californian branchTrotter agreed to serve on its board.
Trotter has had some contact with another Los Angeles university, UCLA, to which he has contributed a number of items for Ernst Toch archives. John's own papers, however, are being donated to the University of Wyoming, which is making a collection of materials from the popular entertainment business of the 20th century. This year he has already sent 60 boxes of musical scores, transcripts, and other items. The university also has archival materials from Hal Kemp, Bing Crosby and George Gobel.
Trotter enjoys his semi-retirement, which has enough commitments to keep him busy but at a somewhat less hectic pace than in the days of the one-night stands. "I couldn't take that now - in fact, I couldn't take it 30 years ago," he laughed.
He tries to get to Europe twice a year and usually manages it, driving thro' the countryside and paying particular attention to the architecture. It was to become an architect that he entered

the University of North Carolina in 1926. In the light of the musical enjoyment that he has provided everyone in the forty-eight years since Easter vacation of 1927, its probably a good thing the Dean wouldn't let him back into school.

Editor: Perhaps we would have liked to have known more of the long-term Bing association but this does fill in a lot of JST's background. It was known that John had visited this country for I remember that Derek Parkes (of Salisbury) was one at least who had met him here.

Another omission of the story was that no reference was made to any family or domestic life of John Scott Trotter - beyond a sister and her husband. Was JST a bachelor?

GOLFING NOTE: (from a cutting)

Nicklaus tells a lovely story about one of the greatest friends he made in showbiz: Bing Crosby.
When Bing phoned him up one time and sang HAPPY BIRTHDAY over the line, Jack didn't recognise the voice!
"Who's that?" he asked.
There was a terrible pause.
Then the voice said: "Its Bing Crosby. I guess I was a bit hoarse"

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Editor: Neigh, neigh! Bing - it was Cloth-eared Nicklaus!

PROMPT PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTION WHEN THE "X" APPEARS AS A REMINDER IS A TREMENDOUS HELP TO THE CONTINUANCE OF THE ICC AND "BING"

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(cont. from foot of next column)

of 'em" - referring to one of his gags! Seems he did, too - and most of them were gems.

A million gags - but for certain only one Jimmy Durante. Happily he had a long and successful life. But it doesn't mean he won't be sadly missed - like Bing. The truly "greats" are passing from the scene...

MORTIFYIN'!

Writing in the last issue about no shortage of material for BING (in reply to a correspondent who thought that nowadays there might be) we proved the point perhaps in a way that might be described as a catastrostroke!

In short, although it was scheduled for "CERTAIN USE" we unfortunately omitted all reference to the passing of the man who must be considered one of the greatest comedians of all time, the great Jimmy Durante, the "Schnozz", a true contemporary from the golden age of Bing. In our book Jimmy stood high - Bing and Bob, Bing and Fred, Bing and Judy...so many great partnerships; and Jimmy Durante and Bing were quite irresistible. Truly the greats of this century - no less - are passing on.
Jimmy Durante had his roots, his beginning, in jazz and as most people know, he was a very accomplished pianist and might even be labelled as one of the pioneers of jazz. His humour was often philosophical, perhaps it had to be with a man who fostered his image as the man with a physical 'deformity' - his nose!

His voice was all his own, as was his so superior way of fracturing the English language. But the style - no other word will do - in putting over a song was truly remarkable in its elan, panache....so many entirely unique songs such as THE STRUTTAWAY, THE MAN WHO FOUND THE LOST CHORD, INKA DINKA DOO, JIMMY THE WELL-DRESSED MAN, THE DAY I READ A BOOK! Yet, remember the pathos, not to mention the fantastic timing, in AUTUMN LEAVES.
Happily, thro' the BBC Sunday night reprises of Bing's radio shows of the 40's we have been able quite recently to hear Bing and Jimmy together. And how <u>they</u> enjoyed these encounters. "I can do without that echo, Mr. Crosby!"; and "This boy's ready for a live show" (referring to Bing, of course)..and his lofty criticism of Bing's theme song: "Its not so much the song Bing as the way you SING it!" And his very early reference to Bing: "Bing Crosby gave me that note - and was he glad to get rid of it!" Jimmy used to crease Bing with his asides, quite genuinely, it seemed.

Jimmy often averred he "had a million

(cont. foot of prec. col)

RESEARCH!

...for which so many hunger...this will fascinate and frustrate you! for as the compiler, FRANK WILGAUS (Cleethorpes)writes..."..it is a most frustrating experience to browse through this list as it is almost certain that no recordings exist of any of this material. We shall never hear it - except in our mind's ear!"

One needs to step back in time to the days when radio (wireless) was comparatively new. When miraculously music came crackling through the ether, most often to be heard only on headphones...and certainly NOT on moving-coil loudspeakers, if speakers at all! When the world was in the grip of this new, marvellous, invention - and America in particular where the commercial laddies had latched on to the extent that hundreds of radio stations dotted America. Perhaps it was thousands, not hundreds. Seems every town had its own local radio station - something we are still only making tentative steps towards!

For younger members, now even jaded with television, leave alone the radio, it will be probably be a difficult exercise to go back to a time they never knew or experienced. Impossible it might be claimed.

It was a time when gramophone records were mechanically, not electrically, recorded...when films were silent and colourless. So musicals were unknown. A time when this revolution in entertainment was ousting the sing-song round the piano as the main source of musical entertainment! Remember how we used an excerpt from Ted Crosby's book which described the excitement in the Crosby household when Bing wrote home to say he was going to broadcast with the Paul Whiteman Band? Father Crosby made sure they could affofd one of these new-fangled radios so the family could gather round expectantly to hear Harry sing. Actually broadcasting! And they didn't even announce his name.....but, he sounded good!

Here then is a list of broadcasts/concerts that Frank has compiled, acknowledgements to the book "BIX" (by Richard Sudhalter and Philip R. Evans) from that exciting period....no tape or cassette recorders. If anyone thought of such items they thought of them only as impossible dreams. We have marvelled that so much of Bing's early work in the 30's was indeed recorded - thankfully - but that any of this material is extant is virtually impossible.

One or two points; BC in the following listing means, of course, Bing... RB means The Rhythm Boys.. Apart from these, Bing was liable to sing with others for the Whiteman Orchestra contained a conglomeration of singers - Charles Gaylord, Jack Fulton, Austin Young, Bbyce Cullen and others. Even Joe Venuti sometimes! Unannounced, unscheduled, unrehearsed and to the apoplectic consternation of Paul (see CALL ME LUCKY). And Bing did, according to his own whimsical description, a lot of "oooooohing and aaaahing" in the Whiteman chorus!

So, get your imagination working as you browse through the following. Some of the songs are, of course, familiar via commercial recordings, eg COQUETTE, THAT'S GRANDMA, OL' MAN RIVER, ORANGE BLOSSOM TIME and so on, but not from these broadcasts/concerts. Frank Wilgaus points out the Rhythm Boys seemed to have a fancy for DIGA DIGA DOO and says what a pity this particular number was never recorded by them. It was a popular rhythmic number of the times and indeed was prolifically recorded by various outfits.
Old Gold, of course, was Whiteman's radio sponsor; WABC &c. is how American radio stations were identified.

BING CROSBY and PAUL WHITEMAN IN THE LATE 'TWENTIES - BROADCASTS AND CONCERTS &c.

19.6.28	Station WEAF New York	That's Grandma	RB
18.9.28	NBC, Hotel Astor, New York	Get out and Get Under the Moon	RB
		Metropolis.	(probably and group)
5.2.29	WABC New York		
	(First Old Gold broadcast but no details available)		
5.3.29	WABC New York		
	(Old Gold)	My Suppressed Desire	RB
		Where the Shy little violets grow	RB
		Give your little lady lots of lovin'	BC
		A pr[illegible]ous little thing called love.	RB
12.3.29	WABC New York	Louise	BC
	(Old Gold)	You give me something to love for	BC
		American Tune	BC
		So the Bluebirds & the Blackbirds got together	RB
		From Monday On	RB
		I Faw down and go Boom!	RB
19.3.29	WABC New York	Diga Diga Doo	RB
	(Old Gold)	I'll Get By	BC
		I Kiss your hand madame (First public performance)	BC
26.3.29	WABC New York	Swing Low, Sweet Chariot	BC
	(Old Gold)	There's a rainbow'round my shoulder	BC
		Coquette	BC
		Things that were made for love	BC
2.4. 29	WABC New York	Diga Diga Doo	RB
	(Old Gold)	South Wind	RB
9.4. 29	WABC New York	Let's do it.	BC & RB
	(Old Gold)	Futuristic Rhythm	RB
		Deep Night	BC
		My Melody Man	RB
		Honey	BC
16.4.29	WABC New York	Things that were made for love	BC
	(Old Gold)	Hallelujah	RB
		I'll Get By	BC
		Miss Annabelle Lee	RB
		When Summer is Gone	BC
23.4.29	WABC New York	March of the Musketeers	BC
	(Old Gold)	Button up your Overcoat	RB
		Nobody's fault but your own	BC
		Ol' Man River	BC
		Building a nest for Mary	RB
30.4.29	WABC New York	Diga, Diga, Doo	RB
	(Old Gold)	Louise.	BC & Quartet.
		Honey	BC
		Oh Miss Hannah!	BC
7. 5.29	WABC New York	Nobody's fault but your own	BC
	(Old Gold)	Castle in Spain	BC
		You wouldn't fool me, would you?	BC

(cont. over

14.5.29	WABC New York (Old Gold)	Futuristic Rhythm	RB
		Swing Low, Sweet Chariot	BC
		There's a rainbow 'round my shoulder	BC
		The One that I love loves me	BC
		Hallelujah	RB
		Oh Baby! Have a heart	BC
		Goodmorning, evening and night	BC
21.5.29	WABC New York (Old Gold)	Canoodle Oodle along	RB
		Oh! Miss Hannah	BC
		I've got a feeling I'm Falling	BC & RB
		Orangle Blossom Time	BC
		Building a nest for Mary	RB
		S'posing	BC

All the above dates were TUESDAYS.
On 24.5.29 Paul Whiteman and the entire crew set off on the Old Gold Special Train for Hollywood to make the film KING OF JAZZ

25.5.29	WJAS broadcast from Syria Mosque	Diga, Diga Doo.	RB
		I Kiss your hand, Madame	BC
		Showboat Sel - Ol' Man River, Make Believe, Can't Help lovin' that man, Why do I love you? Ol' Man River (no precise details but some of these certainly sung by BC and RB)	
		Hallelujah	RB
		Sunrise to Sunset	BC
		Mean to me	BC

27.5.29 Whiteman band gave concert on Pennsylvania Railway Station Fort Wayne, Indiana in the rain; the programme almost certainly included Diga, Diga Doo by the RB

28.5.29	WBBM Chicago (Old Gold) (Tuesday)	Diga Diga Doo	RB
		Till we Meet	BC
		You give me something to love for	BC
		I faw down and go Boom!	RB
		Red hair and Freckles	RB
		My Sin	BC
29.5.29	Concert at State Arsenal, Springfield, Illinois (Weds)	Diga Diga Doo	RB
		Old Golds commercial	RB
		Showboat Sel.	RB
		Hallelujah	RB
		Mean to Me.	BC
2.6.29	Concert on railway station, Burlington, Nebraska (Sun)	Diga, Diga Doo (probably)	RB
		Honey "	BC
		Hallelujah "	RB
		I Kiss your hand, Madame "	BC
4.6.29	KLZ Denver (Old Gold) (Tues)	I'll Get By	BC
		If I Had You	BC
7.6.29	Concert at Pantages Theatre, San Francisco (Fri)	I Kiss your hand, Madame (prohably)	BC
8.6.29	" (Sat)	Hallelujah - and other vocals not specified	RB
11.6.29	KYA San Francisco (Old Gold) (Tues)	Moanin' Low	BC
		Red hair and Freckles	RB
		Louise	BC & RB
		Canoodle oodle along	RB
		Nobody's fault but your own	BC
		S'posin'	BC
		There's a rainbow 'round my shoulder	BC

18.6.29	KMTR Los Angeles	Feeling the way I do	RB
	(Old Gold) Tues.	Oh! Miss Hannah	BC
		Reaching for someone	BC
		Oh Baby have a heart	BC
25.6.29	KMTR Los Angeles	March of the Musketeers	BC
	(Old Gold) Tues	Futuristic Rhythm	RB
		Nobody but you	BC
		Building a nest for Mary	RB
2. 7.29	KMTR Los Angeles	My Sin	BC
	Old Gold (Tues)	Number Three	RB
		You were meant for me	BC
		Makin' Whoopee	BC
		Honey	BC

On Wednesday 3rd July 1929 The Rhythm Boys opened at the Montmartre Club as a separate act.

9.7. 29	KMTR Los Angeles	I'm referrin' to her'n' me	RB
	Old Gold (Tues)	Song of Siberia	BC
		Out where the moonbeams are born	BC
		Baby, Oh where can you be?	BC
16.7.29	KMTR Los Angeles	Your mother and mine	BC
	(Old Gold) Tues	Orange Blossom Time	BC
		I'm just a vagabond lover	BC
23.7.29	KMTR Los Angeles	The one I love, loves me	BC
	(Old Gold) Tues	Give your little baby lots of lovin'	BC
		My Blue Heaven	BC & trio
		Love me or leave me	BC

On Monday 29th July the Rhythm Boys began a week's engagement at the Orpheum Theatre in addition to the Montmartre engagement.

30.7.29	KMTR Los Angeles	Broadway Melody	BC
	(Old Gold) Tues	Your mother and mine	BC
		My Dear	BC
		Hindustan	RB
		S'posin'	BC
		Nobody's fault but your own	BC

3. 8.29 Al Rinker's sister, Mildred Bailey, threw a party for some of Paul Whiteman's band, including Bing; she sang a song or two and landed herself a regular 'gig' with the band.

6.8. 29	KMTR Los Angles	My Madonna	BC
	Old Gold (Tues)	Garden in the Rain	BC & trio
		Walking with Susie	BC
		Little Pal	BC
		You're my silver lining of love	BC
13.8.29	KMTR Los Angeles	Alabamy Bound	BC & trio
	(Old Gold) Tues	You were meant for me	BC
		Just Another Kiss	BC
20.8.29	KMTR Los Angeles	I'm referrin' to her'n'me	RB
	(Old Gold) Tues	Memories of one sweet kiss	BC
		Feeling the way I do	RB
NOTE: 4th song on 5.3.29 p. 27 is A PRECIOUS LITTLE THING CALLED LOVE.		Waiting at the end of the road	BC
		Oh Baby, have a heart	BC
		Futuristic Rhythm	RB
		I'm just a vagabond lover	BC
		Let's do it.	BC

(cont. over

27.8.29	KMTR Los Angeles (Old Gold) Tues.	March of the Musketeers	BC
		Sweetness	BC
		Honey	BC & trio
		You wouldn't fool me, would?	BC & trio
		Junior.	BC
		Nobody's fault but your own	BC

On 28th August 1929 Paul Whiteman, tired of delays in the making of 'King of Jazz' left Hollywood and return East. Hoagy Carmichael, incidentally, hitched a ride and shared Bing's bunk

3. 9.29	WABC New York (Old Gold) Tues	When you're counting the stars alone	BC
		Broadway Melody	BC
		I'm doin' what I'm doing for love	BC
		If you believe in me Mildred Bailey &	RB
		Huggable kissable you	BC
		Breakaway	RB
10.9.29	WABC New York (Old Gold) Tues	Alabamy Bound Trio &	BC
		Love, your magic spell is everywhere	BC
		Red hair and freckles Ponce Sisters/	BC
		Song of Siberia	BC
		Sweetness	BC

This was the last programme for Old Gold on which Bix Beiderbeeke appeared and no further information on Old Gold programmes is thus available to me.

From January to March 1930 the Whiteman band was occupied making at last the film KING OF JAZZ in Hollywood; the film opened at the Roxy Theatre, New York on 5th May 1930. Thereafter Bing and Paul Whiteman's paths began to diverge. Bing, it might be said, was 'at the end of the beginning' to make further use of modern phraseology, was on the launching pad for his meteoric rise to a stardom that never diminished.

FRANK WILGAUS.

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All of which makes this highly apt!

FIFTY YEARS.....

Fifty years, I've been a fan
Of the 'Old Groaner' - what a man!
In August, Nineteen-Twenty-Nine
I heard, in awe, for the first time
Songs - in completely new dimension,
That brought Bing to my close attention.
Now, after all those years so long
I still enjoy Ol' Bing in song.
I play his records, with love and care -
And some of them are pretty rare!
Many of them long deleted,
Others, very much depleted,
Fifty years I've 'lived' with Bing,
It may not be the smartest thing!
The future? - I don't know what's in store -
But I'd love to live for fifty more!

Norman Toogood
(Southampton)

OLD GOLD? PURE GOLD!

A POPULAR FEATURE **********

LETTERS

ALF PEYTON, 14 St. Georges Drive, Carpenders Park, Watford, Herts, WD1 5HB:

Seeing that Bing has a great following from people in all walks of life prompts me to ask if the ICC has any members who are keen cyclists like myself?

Editor: What with the price of petrol and one thing and another there's a fair chance we'll all be cycling - or walking! - soon. More seriously if there are any keen pedallists they may care to get in touch with Alf.

GIL McKEE, 26 Whitehill Avenue, Bangor, Co. Down, N. Ireland:

I read with others in the last issue of the passing of Crosby stalwarts; as you said, the saddest news. My dear mother died last week and I only mention it because she like so many millions of others, loved to hear Bing's records tho' she didn't know one album from another ONLY FOREVER and IF I HAD MY WAY were her type of songs and she looked forward to seeing Crosby films on the TV because she knew it would be family entertainment. My mother was the same age as Bing and she passed away peacefully on Bing's birthday.

Editor: Highlighting one of the reasons for Bing's enormous popularity - he appealed to no one section of the community; and certainly no Crosby film would ever cause embarrassment in the family circle.

And may we here, regarding the letter from Gil, without trying to usurp the parish priest (we'd have a nerve with several respected Revs. on the list!) and more importantly, without sounding we hope sanctimonious, say a word about many of the letters received? These often tell of hardship, illness, bereavements, accidents and so on, amid all the joy occasioned by Bing. Such is the feeling engendered by the Crosby Circle that members feel moved to write such letters. Let me assure the writers those letters are read with sympathy and interest. The last 18 months have occasioned your Editor with a degree of pain and inconvenience to the extent that I well understand the real meaning behind some of those letters. Brian Ford's at the front of this issue is a case in point - and we certainly didn't 'screw it up' as Brian felt we might.

TED BURNELL, 7 Sunnyside, Devonshire Rd., LIVERPOOL 8:

I had a very nice reply from Ken Barnes when I wrote pointing out some errors in his excellent THE CROSBY YEARS. He insists, however, that the song SUNDAY was <u>not</u> written by Jule Styne. I don't know his sources of reference but I consider those at my disposal to be impeccable: ASCAP Biographic index 1965. The first title listed under Styne is SUNDAY and Annotated Index of Popular Music Vol 5, edited by Nat Shapiro 1969. The latter under the date 1926 lists Styne as one of the composers and goes on to add that this song was Styne's first-

published title.
I enjoyed the film ROBIN & THE SEVEN HOODS (on TV recently) but I think if ever a song deserved to be deleted surely STYLE must go down as one of the most inharmonious efforts of all time. And to think that three such singers could combine to bring it about. What are your views on this song?

Editor: Assuredly one of the worst ever written! More than that, I feel the whole score for this film was pretty dreadful. If ever a song was the anthithesis of its title it must be STYLE. Another letter on this film:

JEREMY ROSE, 15b Gascoyne Place, Lipson, Plymouth, PL4 8DF:

Frank Sinatra produced ROBIN & THE 7 HOODS and I remember reading once - before I had seen the film - that the part was given to Bing almost to 'give the old man a break'. The article also remarked that Bing took them all by surprise - and left them standing! I tried to watch the film dispassionately (a very difficult task) and must say that I agree with this assessment. The thing that shone through Bing's performance was a sort of inate professionalism which, for all their undeniably huge talents, the other three stars seemed to lack. A wonderful film from that aspect.

Did Bing every record the song he tried to teach Yves Montand in the film LET'S MAKE LOVE? - INCURABLY ROMANTIC?

Lastly, may I make a request? I am collecting Bing's radio shows on tape but I'm afraid I'm getting a little confused. I have PHILCO from 1946 onwards; CHESTEFIELD from 1949, KMH from 1935-42 (the Spokane record) and so on. Could we have a complete listing of all Bing's radio series? Not a detailed listing but just the sponsors, and the dates of the series? It would make things a lot easier for me, and I'm sure for a lot of other new collectors.

Editor: And for a lot of OLD ones, me included!. To my knowledge such a coherent list has never been published - and there's no magic formula for getting them, only the diligence of ordinary private members! But keep reading BING! They will all fall into place - eventually. And yes, INCURABLY ROMANTIC was a single on MGM backed with THE SECOND TIME AROUND. MGM have not seen fit to reissue it and it remains hard to come by.Recorded 1960.

I suppose really I should be ultra-careful in 'criticising' Bing films in view of the next letter.....

REG BRISTO,
7 GREENMEADOW CLOSE
CWMBRAN,
GWENT NP44 4PJ

KEN DEACON, "Cheriton", Chilworth Rd., Chilworth, Southampton:
"...I must say I found the latest BING to be even more interesting than usual, a really super issue. However, there is one thing I must mention before closing and I regret that it is something of a criticism. I must confess to feeling quite annoyed when reading your review of the TV presentation of HIGH SOCIETY and the two-lines-dismissal of the non-Crosby content of the soundtrack. My admiration for Bing is second to none but not to the extent that it swamps my regard for other great popular song stylists. I regard Sinatra's contribution to HIGH SOCIETY as absolutely outstanding - far too good to be passed off with a footnote to the effect they are also "well performed". This seems to be taking Crosby idolatry just a little too far....

Editor: Well, I've read that piece (p38 last issue) several times, and while I cannot agree with what Ken says, I'm sorry

he resents it. Idolatry is NOT in my line - and, as a matter of fact, to the contrary I've been taken to task in the past for my 'criticisms'. But I'll not argue that particular point. Firstly, it was not a review as such - just a brief round-up of what had been "on the box". We're all very familiar with that film. BING does, it must be confessed, exist ONLY to deal with Bing's work and mentions other artists where necessary, and often in passing.
I am quite certain a Sinatra magazine works in the same way - but in reverse, if you follow? I'm sure Frankie boy's efforts take pride of place. And I don't complain!

IAN LAWRENCE, 11 Landseer Ave. Painters Ash Estate, Northfleet, Kent:

I'm just writing to say how much I enjoyed THE CROSBY YEARS by Ken Barnes. There was one sad, but interesting, piece in the book about Bob Roberts of Chatham, who, when he knew he was going to fie, asked Bing to record WHEN I LEAVE THE WORLD BEHIND which, incidentally, is my grandmother's favourite song. Bing, being the kind man he was, recorded the song.

I must plead ignorance of the fact that Bob had passed away. When I read this about Bob it reminded me of a piece in my scrap-book. In one of the evening papers on the 8th Jan 1974 there was a picture of Bob in his home (his Crosby den); it was quite a big article and I cut it out for my book. After reading of Bob's death and his part in the recording of WHEN I LEAVE THE WORLD BEHIND I am pleased that I took that cutting. Although I never met Bob I know we had on interest in common.

> Editor: Bob's was a tragic story for he was a tremendous Crosby man and a most valued member of the Crosby Circle. Bob did meet Bing many times and was as thrilled as any of us when the incredible happened - and Bing appeared finally at the London Palladium. It was there, in fact, that I last chatted to Bob - who then appeared in good health. But he fell fatally ill soon afterwards and passed away just six months before Bing did. Bing was most affected by Bob's death.
> Bob was entered in THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS as the most prolific Crosby collector in the world. In the course of his hobby Bob went to extraordinary lengths - and expense - to procure rare material. Bob also collaborated on various Crosby publications, notably THE ROAD TO BING CROSBY.
>
> Certainly Bing's recording has tremendous poignancy.....

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ARTHUR WARING, 32 Stainton Drive, Middleton, Manchester, M24 3PD:
The Local Authority Transport Dept. (Greater Manchester) decided to use taped music on the upper deck of their buses, sponsored by advertising. Just before Christmas they created a programme with a Christmassy-atmosphere and that meant that we could hear Bing's beautiful voice with the most famous Christmas song of them all, WHITE CHRISTMAS. Each morning travelling to work and again on the homeward journey we had the extreme pleasure of listening to those golden tones - what a delight! So our Christmas locally had quite a good share of Bing...

> Editor: This letter is somewhat belated (no fault of Arthur's) but we find it of interest for it is the first we've heard of such an innovation and must have certainly brightened up the Manchester Yuletide. Snag is, I suppose, when Christmas is over there is a return to the endless pop? Or has it been better than that?

THE CROSBY YEARS - by KEN BARNES

It is opportune at this juncture to break off from LETTERS for a while as Ken's book has been mentioned therein. It has me very puzzled.

But firstly, members have taken advantage of the very good discount offered us by Hamish Hamilton and a fair proportion now have it. Almost universally the book has been acclaimed with just minor criticisms which, in relation, amount to very little.

I have often bemoaned the lack of record facilities in this area; but the BOOK facilities are excellent, there being many good shops, apart from Smith's, Menzies and Martins, which specialise in book-selling. And thereby lies the puzzlement: no where have I seen THE CROSBY YEARS in a shop! As I have travelled further afield, e.g. Newport, Cardiff and Pontypool, the puzzlement is deeper because even there I found no trace of the book! So if record distribution is a mystery, book distribution is an even bigger one.

To compound the mystery, when I submitted a supplementary list of names and addresses to Hamish Hamilton to which the book should be sent there was considerable delay. In reply to my query they informed me that they had run out of stocks and had to await a re-print! This is excellent news, naturally, - but who is getting the stocks?

Some of them, happily, have gone to Australia! The publishers did tell us the book would be published in America, but no mention was made of Down Under. But our member, GIRVAN PATERSON, of 6/23 Paddington Rd., Oakleigh, Victoria, has sent us a copy of the biggest and most interesting review of the book we have come across. It appears in THE HERALD which, from its appearance, is published in Melbourne and one of Australia's leading dailies.

The review is a whole page plus and entitled THE MELODY LINGERS ON, by Kenneth Joachim. Further, it contains pictures of Bing - on the golf course, with Bob and Dottie, and with Kathryn. The publisher there (obviously a deal has been made) is Nelson, and the price 32.50 Australian dollars. I'm red-faced at not knowing the current rates of exchange but it sounds expensive. Maybe the Aussie members who had the book posted to them did better even allowing for the postage. The review, as well as lengthy, is quite excellent - tho', as you would anticipate, containing nothing we're not already familiar with. Yet the following extract may be new:

> "Why such an eminent record producer as Ken Barnes, who had worked with such stars as Fred Astaire, Gene Kelly, Peggy Lee and Peter Sellers, became so captivated by this other entertainer is evident from a treasury of anecdotes and quotes from Crosby himself as well as his contemporaries. The charm, the warmth, the frustrating elusiveness, the infuriating indolence, and the sheer professionalism of this complex character come through in these cameos of Crosby, in word and deed."

It would be nice to say this review was free from 'sensationalism'. It WOULD have been but for its opening:

> "By the time Bing Crosby got 30 days jail for drunken driving even his closest buddies feared the young crooner was on the slide to Skid Row....ironically, prison and its enforced reformation was the first step Bing Crosby took towards that rainbow he rode to legendary stardom...."

AROUND THE WORLD

********** FOR BING **********

One gets the impression that quite a number of Circle members found their way to America this year! Apart from Frank Murphy's event in Newcastle, not to mention the other North Eastern gathering of Johnny Joyce and friends in Gateshead, the Bing Crosby Historical Society organised a number of events in Bing's birthplace. These took place around May 2nd, of course, and the ICC was well represented. From all accounts, our ROY CHAPPELL, really knocked them out with his 'touch of the Bing's'in the States and has been warmly invited back already for next year. Let's see if we can sort it all out into some coherent order! Firstly, a contribution from Ken Twiss, founder of the BCHS.

The His rical Society's second annual tribute to Bing covered three days - 2, 3, and 4 May 1980; although Ken Twiss doesn't say as much - bless him! - there must have been some disappointment - not at the general attendance which was, as he says, "beautiful in concept and showed a solidarity from various societies that was really something in honoring Bing". There was no Crosby family representative. Rosemary Clooney was unable to attend, as was Donald O'Connor. More understandably, Al Rinker was able only to send a telephoned message and greeting. Despite these disappointments the event was a success and very enjoyable. Ken writes:

> "I hope my membership with ICC has not run out. Al Sutton has told me of your 30th anniversary and I certainly do not want to miss out on congratulations. There is no way that I could express our appreciation to you and the ICC as well as Al Sutton did.
>
> "At our meeting was a truly ardent Bing Crosby man, MR. GORDON HOOPER. He spoke so well of ICC that I want to call him the unofficial representative of International Crosby Circle. He certainly carried your banner high!
>
> "Also at our big event was Father Dussault, vice-president of Conzaga University; Al Sutton, president of Club Crosby in California, Caroline Dawson, president Kathryn Crosby Fan Club as well as your remarkable Mr. Gordon Hooper. And of course, your Roy Chappell was here from Manchester...."

The main event was, of course, the banquet on Saturday, May 3rd. In addition to the UK element there were all the names with which we have become familiar - and friendly - over the years: Herb Bootman, Larry Kiner, Al Sutton and many others. Al Sutton has, of course, recently taken over Editorship of BINGANG, the US Club Crosby magazine and we were delighted to receive the first issue under his banner. It is a really splendid publication, beautifully presented and produced and full of sensible Crosby material. Note the sensible!

Membership for UK people is ten dollars; this will bring their magazine air-mail. All enquiries should be addressed to PO Box 8283, Sacramento, CA. 95818, USA. Cheques/money orders should be made out to CLUB CROSBY.

Gordon Hooper so glowingly referred to by Ken Twiss is our member of 20 Links Rd., Lancing, Sussex and he describes his momentous visit as follows:

> "I have just come back from a month's visit to Bing's Country. The Tacoma tribute programme went over very well indeed. Ken Twiss undoub edly does a wonderful job over there. Roy Chappell of

of Manchester was there, too, and sang several Bing songs and was very well received. I went to Spokane and saw Gonzaga University and saw a wonderful array of awards, gold discs, etc. Members may be interested to know there is going to be a large bronze statue of Bing outside the main entrance of the University; the Father wants to put seats around so that people can sit and rest if need be....I had the privilege of being taken around Paramount by Leo Lynn of Bing Crosby Enterprises and saw Bing's old dressing-room, and it was very interesting to see that the 'set' of the church for the film GOING MY WAY is still there.

I was also shown over the Crosby offices in Los Angeles and I must say that Nancy Briggs, Mozelle and Leo Lynn were incredibly kind. They even took me out to lunch in the car that Bing always used when there!

It might be of interest that while there, also, I noticed an award given to Bing by the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers for the best rendering of the Country & Western song, WHERE THE BLUE OF THE NIGHT MEETS THE GOLD OF THE DAY".

ANOTHER POINT OF INTEREST IS THAT THE PROPOSED BOOK BY GARY CROSBY HAS BEEN DROPPED AS HIS THREE BROTHERS DID NOT APPROVE.

I also went to the Holy Cross Cemetery and must report that the graves of Bing, his first wife Dixie, and his parents, are wonderfully kept. This is due to the efforts of a most wonderful lady, Marion Love Massey, who goes there EVERY Friday whatever the weather from 7am to 1pm, loaded with flowers. She tends the graves with the utmost devotion. Luckily I met this lovely lady; I think her effort is wonderful.

I had the holiday of a lifetime....

It certainly sounds so, Gordon, and we're delighted for you, and grateful TO you, for representing us so well in the States.

And it seems that MARY THROP, our good friend from Leeds, has also had the holiday of a lifetime! One of the most remarkable things about Mary's visit to the States was that she was actually in Spokane when Mount St. Helen's was making its explosive eruptions! More than that, there was a Jack Benny programme on the local radio with Bing as a guest (the Ink Spots were others!) which was dramatically and graphically interrupted from time to time with news flashes of what was happening. This was especially grave to the Spokane area for it was in the 'firing-line' as it were to receive the ash and lava from the eruptions. Happily it did escape finally.

MORE THAN THAT, MARY ACTUALLY CAME BACK WITH A CASSETTE OF ALL THIS WHICH SHE HAS BEEN KIND ENOUGH TO PASS ON TO ME. A HIGHLY HISTORICAL CASSETTE.

Mary describes her most eventful trip thus:

An unforgettable trip - it included a 5000-mile itinerary which took in three days in Tacoma for the marvellous Historical Society's banquet; then back to Seattle, thro' Oregon with a 3-day stay on a ranch-farm. I went to Mr. and Mrs. Bootman (Herb & Bobbie) on the 24th April in San Diego where they met me from the plane and took me from Los Angeles down to their home. After a day's rest we set off for Tacoma - staying en route 3 days with the Bootman's daughter in San Francisco, one night at a place near Portland - then the three nights in Tacoma itself.

There followed 3 days of absolute delight in meeting people from far

and wide, all gathered there to honour Bing.

ROY CHAPPELL was fantastic; everyone raved about his singing and it was wonderful to meet up with him thousands of miles from home. Roy gave enormous pleasure at the big event which has led to him being invited back.

> We were very close at one time to Mount St. Helen's volcano and were fascinated, with a mixture of alarm! that it might erupt when we were close...we were very relieved to be back in San Diego when it did, though we saw a lot of the utter devastation it caused.

I have taken a lot of pictures...I got to see Bing's birthplace, and the home of his grandfather. I also took a picture of Bing's Hillsborough home, venturing as far up the driveway as I dared! A nice souvenir were eucalyptus cones from Bing's garden!

I also spent some time at Priscilla Koernig's home and had the opportunity to see her incredible "Bing" room.

As for the actual event, well what with the introductions, the banquet, cocktails, records, films and all the greetings things began to get a bit of a blur. I left at 12.45am and it was still in full swing!

****

One can almost feel Mary's excitement at her fabulous trip. There is certainly one point on which all our visitors to America are agreed: the incredible friendship and hospitality of the US Crosby people. Which, one might say, figures....

****

Meanwhile, back at base you have read of the BING PHOTO CLUB event at Newcastle which took in Frank Murphy's hospitals' broadcast apart from the main event at the elegant Civic buildings. This was attended - also as you have read - by Ken Barnes and Leslie Gaylor.

> KEN BARNES HAD A PARTICULARLY BUSY TIME FOR AS WELL AS ATTENDING AT NEWCASTLE HE ALSO FOUND TIME TO GET TO GATESHEAD FOR ANOTHER BING-BIRTHDAY EVENT: REPORTED AS FOLLOWS BY BOB JONES:-

The latest of the now regular dinner-meetings of the North East branch of the ICC was held in the Springfield Hotel at Gateshead in honour of the anniversary of Bing's birthday. The evening was the seventh of successful functions organised by yours truly, John Joyce and Sam Warman. The evening included a splendid 3-course meal provided at a concessionary rate by the hotel management who themselves appear to look forward to having us! We were especially pleased on this occasion to welcome Michael Crampton from Leeds, George and Mary Harwood from Cambridge, and one of our new members, Tom Matthews, from Morpeth. We were especially delighted with the presence of our particular guest - none other than Ken Barnes.

Before the meal Ken treated us to an excellent discourse on COME SHARE THE WINE, followed by a preview of the (then) forthcoming COME RAIN OR COME SHINE. Even more fascinating was Ken's talk on the writing of THE CROSBY YEARS. We were able to present a leather-bound copy of the book singed by all present to Ken. We much appreciated his visit.

After the meal we had our film show, presented as usual by John Joyce. The choice this time was THE ROAD TO BALI. But we had quite a disturbance!

> The film had been in progress about 15 minutes when the fire alarms throughout the hotel started ringing. The film was stopped immediately and everyone was asked to leave immediately in an orderly manner. After about 10 minutes, however, we were informed that it was a false alarm. But John Joyce had received a shock and got his priorities sorted! When everyone was again seated waiting for the film to re-start, John announced to the gathering in a serious tone that he had not realised how alarming the situation could have been. So, said John, if the alarm should go again, or on any future occasion, would everyone please co-operate to give him and me (Bob) a clear run so that we could get out the equipment and records first!

Notwithstanding, the evening ended with Bob playing requests from the guests and we had, finally to close in the early hours of Sunday. Our next meeting will be held on 18th October next and the cost will be around £3.25 - £3.50p - the cost only of the meal. Any members desirous of attending should contact either:

BOB JONES,
39 Gladstone St.
Hebburn,
TYNE & WEAR NE31 2XD
(Tel: Jarrow 897370)

or:

JOHN JOYCE
21 Birchfield Gardens,
Gateshead,
TYNE & WEAR
(Tel: Gateshead 770404 or 878761

A Welcome - and a great time - is assured!

Editor: So, erupting volcanoes, Transatlantic flights, hotel fire alarms it was all happening, as they say, on or around Bing's birthday....hope it made some sense and wasn't too disjointed. A useful lesson too: GET THE RECORDS OUT FIRST!

Our thanks to all correspondents - who did a great job. Oh, Mary Throp's photographs came out fine and added to the dramatic cassette referred to earlier, makes wonderful souvenirs of the TRIP OF A LIFETIME!

A CURIOUS STORY * * * * * * * BY A PUZZLED LADY. Renee Chester writes:

When we were in Newcastle for the birthday tribute, Ken Barnes announced that Bing had been awarded a gold disc for his LIVE AT THE PALLADIUM double-album and that it was to be presented to Mary Crosby at the studios where she was making a film.

I perked up on hearing this and asked where and when? And all present at Newcastle will recall me stating my wish to be present on behalf of the ICC - as I was happily for the Palladium-plaque unveiling by Bob Hope. Ken replied that he had no details at that stage. On the way back to London on the Sunday I thought little else but of this award so on Monday morning I telephoned K-Tel records and they informed me that they were presenting the disc to United Artists.

So I contacted United Artists and firstly was told that they didn't

know when the disc would be ready. Little or no satisfaction, so I phoned Brenda Carr - secretary to Louis Benjamin at the Palladium - and told her all about it. She remembered me from the plaque business and kindly told me to leave it with her and she would phone me back. And bless her, she did. She informed me the disc would be taken to United Artists on Tuesday May 14 for presentation at Hatfield where Mary was filming. And that it was to be presented by Ken Barnes.

So, I rang United Artists again and asked if I could go along and the answer was "Certainly!" They told me they had already asked Ken Barnes if I could go with him - and he said he would phone me. And ring me Ken did and arrangements were made for me to meet him at Golders Green Hippodrome and we would go at 11 am Weds. to Hatfield.

On Wednesday morning, however, Ken phoned me again at 7.45am to say he had had a late-night call of a change of plans and would I hang on until he heard from the studio? At 11.15am Ken phoned to say he had heard nothing despite ringing them twice. So, he was going to SEND the disc. Ken was clearly upset and tired of the whole business.

Then, at 3.30pm whilst at his office, a chauffer-driven car arrived from the studios to pick Ken up for the presentation. No prior phone call. Nothing. He explained that he would have to pick up me but they insisted there was no time and off he had to go. Ken later phoned me to say how sorry he was - and of course, I know he was.

But what I would like to know is - why are these things made so mysterious? The Palladium unveiling, you will remember, was kept virtually a secret. And now this strange story of the gold disc. Public relations? Good relations? Publicity? We only know about these things when they are all over! I think Bing - and his memory - deserve better.

Editor: Strange indeed - and Renee's questions are perfectly valid.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

ANDREW MANGAN, 3 Goldenbridge Walk, Inchicore, Dublin 8, Ireland:

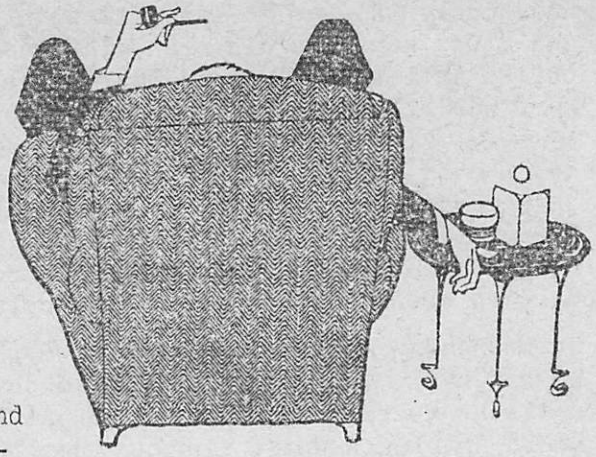
There's a film critic on one of our daily papers—THE IRISH PRESS---who is fond of slipping in Irish (language)words and phrases in his otherwise English writings. In this context he always called the Old Maestro "Binn" Crosby. Now "Binn" in Irish means an exceedingly beautiful sound - it is pronounced same as "bean" - and is only very sparingly used as an adjective. It was such an apt description that to me, he is always "Binn Crosby".....

Lovely thought! Andrew adds: I have about 20 78s of Bing avaiable, all mint, to anyone who calls. I don't like posting 78s....

Brian Ford draws our attention to this in "JULIE ANDREWS" by John Contrell:

"She was to play opposite Bing in HIGH TOR. She was especially fortunate in having in her first film a leading man devoid of temperament and full of sympathy for a young girl venturing into a new medium. Crosby, always relaxed and good-natured, nursed her thro' the initial scenes in the movie which had music by Arthur Schwartz and Julie recalls that he would even ruin a scene deliberately - if she was not playing well, just so that an expensive re-take could not be blamed on her. In the film she sang two songs to Bing, SAD IS THE LIFE OF A SAILOR'S WIFE and ONCE UPON A LONG AGO. When they had finished filming he presented her with a gold, pearl-encrusted pendant ring inscribed:"Julie, thanks. Bing" This, of course, is the TV film, the LP of which is so elusive - Editor.

KEEPING track



firstly
with your Editor
and hopefully,
BERT BISHOP eventually !

* * * * * * * * * * * * *

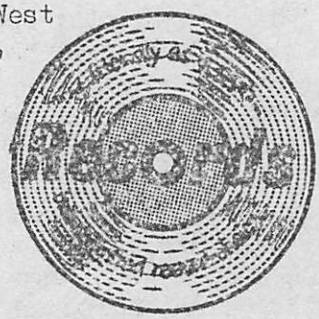
The new record scene, as we have disposed of COME SHARE THE WINE and COME RAIN COME SHINE, bears a distinct resemblance to Mother Hubbard's cupboard. It does seem that most members overcame their reluctance to pay a full LP price for the one new title track of COME SHARE THE WINE. This is good for while not fully upholding the marketing method these albums do, in the long run, deserve our full support. If only that the producers may be encouraged to issue more! Certainly the one new track has met with universal acclaim with many members paying tribute to the expertise which produced such a fine track from two 'takes'. Leslie Gaylor talks elsewhere in this issue about the intricacies behind the Bing-Buddy-Pete-Ken enterprise.

On the last page of BING No. 55 we mentioned the German MCA double album (MCA 301 058-370). We mentioned it with some slight reluctance for we were well aware it would not be easy to obtain the set but had to include it for, as you know, we aim at completeness! Reference to Issue No. 55 will refresh your minds that this album really got away from the constantly reissued titles so typical, alas, of British MCA issues, containing such titles as POINCIANA, PEOPLE WE'LL SAY WE'RE IN LOVE, OH! WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MORNING, HARBOR LIGHTS, I LOVE YOU, a new 'take' of GAL IN CALICO, DANCE BALLERINA DANCE, etc. etc. A most attractive set, very nicely packaged, too, with a fine picture of Bing in various shades of gold and brown on the front, and the same picture in black and white on the inside of the folding-cover.

Now there is no doubt at all about this being a West Germany issue; it says so, together with the address. And it contains really readable notes by one Stan Britt, whom we feel sure, we ought to know - but don't.

> But there's a distinct oddity; these excellent notes, on a German issue, ARE IN ENGLISH! And we feel constrained to ask WHY? Great for those of us fortunate enough to have the set (we have to be mysterious as to how we came by our copy: we just daren't overload the private source!)

Do the Germans read English with the facility they read their own langauge? Was this issue aimed at the FORCES in West Germany? Hardly likely...today's forces, by and large, tend to go for the What, The Who, and the Wotsits!



Was it aimed at OVERSEAS markets? If so, it hasn't got around very much. So we repeat, its an oddity that the sleeve notes are in English....the Japanese aren't so accommodating! If you have a son or other relative, friend, in Germany....it could be a useful avenue!

Again we embark on a rather frustrating exercise - another set it will NOT be easy to obtain. Not obtain at a reasonable price, that is. Les Gaylor has obtained from the States the contents of the (US) READERS DIGEST set of 8 LPs. The general heading is BING SINGS AGAIN - RCA Records, though as you will see, and as Bing would say, "they got songs from all over!"

RECORD 1: THE ROAD PICTURES.

1. But Beautiful.
2. Put it there, Pal.
3. Its Always You
4. You Lucky People You
5. You Don't have to know the Langauge.

1. Learn to Croon.
2. Life is so Peculiar
3. Let's Take the Long Way Home
4. You Keep Coming back Like a Song
5. Sunshine Cake
6. The Bells of St. Mary's

RECORD 2: THE BING CROSBY SHOW - ON THE AIR

1. The Song is Ended
2. For me and my Gal
3. You tell me your Dream
4. On Top of Old Smoky
5. Mississippi Mud (Jas. Stewart!)
6. Its only a Paper Moon

1. If I knew you were coming...
2. Tell me Why
3. On Moonlight Bay
4. Louise-Mimi (M. Chevalier)
5. May the good Lord Bless you and Keep You (Nat King Cole: Andrews)

RECORD 3: REMEMBER ?

1. The Sweetheart of Sigma Chi
2. Down among the Sheltering Palms
3. I wonder what's become of Sally
4. What'll I Do?
5. Shine on Harvest Moon
6. Blue Skies

1. Remember?
2. That old gang of mine
3. I'm waiting for ships that never come in
4. Who's sorry now?
5. All by Myself
6. Till we meet again

RECORD 4: FAST COMPANY - BING AND SOME FRIENDS

1. Alexander's Ragtime Band (Al)
2. Spaniard that Blighted my Life "
3. Lullaby of Broadway
4. On a slow boat to China (P.Lee)
5. Sweet Lorraine.
6. Route 66!

1. Wait Till the Sun Shines Nellie(MM)
2. You Gotta start off each day with a song (J. Durante)
3. Does your Heart beat for Me?
4. A Fine Romance
5. Lullaby (Jocelyn)

RECORD 5: BEYOND THE REEF

1. Beyond the Reef
2. Song of the Islands
3. Mele Kalikimaka
4. Harbor Lights
5. Hawaiian Wedding Song
6. Aloha Kuu Ipo Aloha

SHAMROCKS & SHILLELAGHS

1. When Irish Eyes are Smiling
2. Its the same old Shillelagh
3. The Daughter of Molly Malone
4. I'll Take you home again, Kathleen
5. Who threw the overalls in Mrs Murphy's Chowder?
6. How are things in Glocca Morra?

RECORD 6: BACK AT THE RANCH

1. Home on the Range
2. Oh, Lonesome Me
3. The One Rose
4. Wabash Cannonball
5. You are my Sunshine

1. Jealous Heart
2. Sierra Sue
3. Sioux City Sue
4. Tumbling Tumbleweeds
5. Along the Santa Fe Trail

RECORD 7: A SALUTE TO SOME OTHER FELLAS WHO SANG - EL BINGO

1. Mona Lisa
2. Five minutes more
3. That Lucky old Sun
4. Wish you were here.
5. Don't let the stars get in your eyes.

1. You belong to my Heart
2. El Rancho Grande
3. Come to the Mardi Gras
4. Valencia
5. I get Ideas
6. Siboney

RECORD 8: BING SWINGS WITH A DIXIELAND BAND - FANCY MEETING YOU HERE

1. I'm gonna sit right down and write myself a letter.	1. Chicago
2. After you've gone	2. Fancy meeting you Here!
3. Tea for Two	3. Sentimental Gentleman from Georgia
4. Mack the Knife	4. The Poor People of Paris.
5. Exactly like you	5. The Missouri Waltz
	6. Ciao, Ciao, Bambina.

All tracks "electronically re-recorded to simulate stereo". This is a slightly bewildering compilation of 'ancient & modern' and flipping about all over the place! Makes for interest however.... Note that some of the records have a title for each side. I make it 91 - 92 if you include two songs with Maurice Chevalier.

The other participants in the records have not been shewn for space reasons - except where they are different from commercial recordings. As the repertoire notes say as supplied to Leslie Gaylor: "This is an 8-LP Package, Multi label". It certainly is. Should we hear of a convenient way of getting the set we will let you know in due course. Release is scheduled for September 1980. MM = Mary Martin!

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Its with a degree of relief that we refer back to a record you CAN obtain fairly easily. Quite easily, in fact. This is BING'S MAGIC and we described it in the last issue. It contains 16 or so tracks with John Scott Trotter's Orchestra culled from radio shows - see page 38 of the previous issue of BING. The more we listen to this the more we like it; AND we have since discovered that the sleeve and the notes were devised by an ICC member who prefers to remain anonymous! Hiding his light under the proverbial....

> YOU CAN OBTAIN THIS PROMPTLY FROM MIKE SLIPMAN, (LEGEND MUSIC) 153 Francklyn Gardens, Edgware, Midd'x at the all-in price of £4.50 - modest enough these days for a worthwhile addition to your collection, over 40 mins listening-time.

* Well, we've just had the pleasure of adding a new member to our roll - from Alaska! He is the first and so far only one. And what do you know? He comes right back at us and tells us that HOLIDAY TOAST (see p. 13 last issue) is NOT a direct equivalent of A TIME TO BE JOLLY! Sydney Torgramsen maintains it has cuts on it compared with JOLLY....I have the Twenthieth Century Fox CHRISTMAS TOAST but haven't made a comparison.. Sydney would like to strike up some friendships via corespondence for record trading and so on. It would be nice to know the Crosby situation in Alaska...

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When, at the start, we said the cupboard was bare as far as new records go we were referring, of course, to issues by the big companies. The situation in the "ind endent" lable field continues to flourish as Mike Slipman's listing shows....

And further on you will see that the fabulous collection of the late KEITH HYDE is for disposal... its an ill-wind etc. As you will also see the disposal is being organised by Tom Northrope.

The magazine THE MOVIE (not to be confused with MOVIE), Issue No. 31 out a week or so has 3 pages of Bing plus a really great picture of him taken on the set of THE EMPEROR WALTZ ...costs 50p if you collect this sort of thing....

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW - Buddy Cole did NOT play a 50's type electronic organ. He used an ex-theatre organ of 3 manuals and 27 ranks. Your Editor has a tape of Buddy conducting a 'tour' of its capabilities.....

TRADING POST

In this feature members may advertise their 'wants' and 'disposals' - records, tapes, books, pictures &c. There is no charge; nor can we accept any responsibility for any subsequent dealings. We rely on the integrity of members in their descriptions &c. and it is up to individual members to satisfy themselves they are making an equitable deal. Endeavour to keep your insertions to not more than half-a-dozen lines; if you have lengthy lists of items invite a SAE for them. And for those readers (mainly overseas) to whom this is unknown, it means invite a STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE to cover a reply. Overseas, of course, one should send an International Reply Coupon which will serve the same purpose.

BING ties in maroon with the gold motif, or in dark blue with a silver motif, are still available from:

BAXTERS,
THE BADGE CENTRE,
45 ROPERGATE,
PONTEFRACT,
W. YORKS.

Mr. Baxter tells us - and we fully accept this - that it has been necessary to increase the price to £2.10 plus 15p P & P. The price has been kept low, and still represents a fair bargain. The motif is, of course, the 'pipe-smoking silhouette' of Bing.

MRS. RENEE CHESTER, 48 Milton Rd., Hanwell, LONDON, W.7. will be grateful to hear from anyone who can convert video tapes from the American to our VHS system. Renee has over 400 sound cassettes she is willing to copy, too, let her know your wants.

ERIC R. DUNKLEY, 22 Westfield Rd. Yaxley, Peterborough, Cambs. has for sale or trade Bing LPs all brand new:
MR. CROSBY & MR. MERCER MCA(Austr) POCKETFUL OF DREAMS MCA (AUSTR)
HEY JUDE, HEY BING LONDON (UK) BING-A MUSICAL BIOGRAPHY 5-LP SET MCA(UK)
ERIC wants: HIGH TOR, TWILIGHT ON THE TRAIL AND SOME FINE OLD CHESTNUTS.
(Tel: 0733-240835

MR. E. TURNER, 19 Princeway, Frodsham, Warrington, WA6 6RX wishes to obtain Tapes (good quality recordings from original LPs) of ROSEMARY CLOONEY - prior to those albums issued in recent years.

One of our younger members DAVID WARD, 51 St. Andrews St., Lincoln, Lincs, LN5 7UD wants any back issues of THE CROSBY POST, and back issues of BING before No. 39. Willing to bear any price suggested and to cover postage costs. If not available for sale would appreciate anybody willing to LOAN postage paid both ways - and they would be kept in excellent condition.

MR. J.H.UNWIN, 47 West Way, Broadstone, Dorset WANTS - Tapes or LPs of Cremo, Woodbury and KMH radio broadcasts. Will pay cash or would tape members' requirements from 800 78s titles, or 90 LPs.

MERVYN POWELL, 6 Morfydd St., Morriston, Swansea, Glam has 2 boxed sets, viz. THE VERY BEST OF BING (7 LPs) and the 5-LP MUSICAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY SET, plus around 40 LPs; and cassettes including 7 C120 of THE BING CROSBY STORY. Most of all of these played but once. SAE for complete list if of interest.

******* MANY MEMBERS, WITH THE BEST INTENTIONS IN THE WORLD, SEND US THE NAMES/ADDRESSES OF LOCAL SHOPS SELLING RECORDS/BOOKS &c OFF CHEAPLY FOR US TO PRINT THESE DETAILS FOR THE BENEFIT OF MEMBERS. BUT WE HAVE FOUND THAT WHEN WE HAVE DONE THIS THE SHOP GETS OVERLOADED AND CANNOT COPE WITH LARGE NUMBERS OF POSTAL ORDERS OR THE SALE IS OVER BY THE TIME "BING" IS PRINTED. SO WE'VE MADE A RULE NOT TO MENTION THESE SMALL LOCAL SHOPS - BUT THANKS FOR THE INTENTIONS! **********

LES STREET, 8 Wyfan Place, Mynachdy, Cardiff, Glam would like to obtain copies of BING prior to No. 39

An important notice from THE SWING SHOP (Dave Carey) for those who have dealt there:

"As announced in the jazz press, we are discontinuing postal trade prior to the eventual closure of THE SWING SHOP at the end of 1980. Selected customers are consequently being transferred to Mr. Tom Stagg of Nola Records & Distributors, 16 Clement Close, Purley, Surrey, CR2 4BY (Telephone 01-668-6772) who will give their orders careful attention. He will be in constant liaison with us during the coming year and will have access to our vast stock. We feel sure that you will find his service to be of a high standard and with a personalised quality akin to that of THE SWING SHOP. During this period any queries should be referred to Dave Carey either by letter or telephone."

DAVID WARD (address above) also would like any issues of THE CROSBY COLLECTOR - young David has a voracious appetite for Bing books!

JEREMY ROSE, 15b Gascoyne Place, Lipson, Plymouth, PL4 8DF would be grateful to hear from any members who have any deleted Bing LPs as spares particularly of the BING'S HOLLYWOOD series which they would be prepared to sell.

MR. W.H.Ewert, "Wood Nymph", 7 Elfin Dr., Ferndown, Dorset, BH22 9QC: Thirty-six of Bing's General Electric shows on 3 7" reels in quarter-track tape £21, incl. postage.

We understand that the two undermentioned have large numbers of Bing 78s to sell:

Mr. Frank Ayres,
439 Sutton Rd.
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA, Essex SS2 5PJ

Mr. J.H. Eames,
50A Harpenden Rd.,
St. Albans,
HERTS, AL3 6DE

WANTED: Dubbings of the following TV/radio items: Kathryn Crosby on TV news bulletin 15th Oct. 1977; any or all BBC Radio-2 news bulletins of 15th October 1977 on which Bing records were played; Bing and Kathryn on OPEN HOUSE BBC Radio-2 Sept. 1977. Will send blank cassette if you can help: JOHN BASSETT, "Bingville", 15 Oast Way, Rochford, Essex, SS4 1RZ

ICC PUBLICATIONS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE:

ALTERNATE BING CROSBY by COLIN PUGH (see last issue); the studious compilation of alternate takes issued of Bing's recordings: £2.50 post paid. To our slight surprise, this has been selling well indicating that we have more research-minded members than we thought! And it has been hailed as a major contribution to publications on Bing's recording career.

BING CROSBY MINI-DISCOGRAPHY: listing all Bing's recordings in chronological order from the first in October 1926 to the last in 1977. £2.00

What might be called 'working copies' of the BING CROSBY LPography - copies you may care to write in, mark off, etc. etc. They are minus the glossy cover but remain a mine of information on more than 1000 LPs on which Bing was either solely featured or involved in other ways. £2.00 - all three items post paid.

IMPORTANT: If there is sufficient interest we are prepared to publish

a listing of Bing's V-discs recordings, i.e. records made for the American Armed Forces during World War II. Please indicate when writing and a decision will be made.

MRS. M. WHITAKER, 69 Fairfield Rd., Tadcaster, North Yorks LS24 9SW has for 'auction' many rare Bing albums including BING IN HOLLYWOOD, BING CROSBY STORY VOL 1 (both double albums); HIGH TOR, BING'S HOLLYWOOD (complete 15 albums); TOM SAWYER (3 albums); plus four 10" albums, 31 78s, 8 45s and many tapes including 14 part BING CROSBY STORY, SOLID GOLD BING etc. etc. Would sell complete or split up. S.A.E. please for more details.

MICHAEL KENEFICK, 4 Friar Street, Youghal, Co. Cork, Ireland very much wants any material of the late Michael Holliday - radio, TV or perhaps stage shows. Willing to pay all costs, postage, etc.

FOR SALE: Most Bing Crosby LPs and singles (45rpm). Send SAE for list and prices. Brian Jones, 23 Plas Rd., Fleur-de-Lis, Blackwood, Gwent, NP2 1RJ.

PHIL CLARKE, 69 Walden Rd., Stamshaw, Portsmouth, Hants PO2 8PH runs the SOUTHERN BING CROSBY SOCIETY and welcomes all members in the area. SAE will bring details. Regular social evenings are held where a large number of VIDEO recordings of Bing films are available.

G.R.T.(Tom Evans) has been organising Midlands members which holds dinners and dances - and recently was in a position to hand a cheque to its favourite charity.

R.S.(Bob) JONES, 39 Gladstone St., Hebburn, Tyne & Wear, NE31 2XD: Wants! Bing LPs, EPs and singles on Brunswick, Ace of Hearts, &c. Will buy or exchange...also would like radio broadcasts of AL BOWLLY.

MISS OLIVE GREGORY, "Ebenezer", 4 Lyndhurst Rd. Meols, Hoylake, Wirral, L47 7BP has the 10" LP BLUE SKIES in very good cond., which she would like to exchange for any of the following: BING'S HOLLYWOOD No. 7/ RETURN TO PARADISE ISLANDS/AMERICA, I HEAR YOU SINGING (with LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER included)

DERRICK ANDERSON, 51 West Aven., Wombwell, Barnsley, S. Yorks S73 8QG: Any offers/exchanges for the following LPs in exc. condition: GREAT COUNTRY HITS/BING AND BASIE/ HEY JUDE, HEY BING/ EXTRA SPECIALE/ A SOUTHERN MEMOIR/WHITE CHRISTMAS/JOIN BING AND SINGALONG (Warner 8021)

The Editor (REG BRISTO) has been asked to offer the following 12" albums with the proceeds towards postal expenses of the Circle. The first is (three copies) of a slightly mysterious BING CROSBY'S GREATEST HITS, MCA-3031 (American) - WHITE CHRISTMAS ('47)/WHIFFENPOOF SONG/I SURRENDER DEAR/BLUE SKIES/PISTOL PACKIN' MAMA/TOO-RA-LOO-RA-LOO-RAL/AS-CENT-CHUATE THE POSITIVE/DON'T FENCE ME IN/YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE/SWINGING ON A STAR/ DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS/WHERE THE BLUE OF THE NIGHT ('45) (unplayed) PRICE £4.00 POST & PACKING PAID

It is most unlikely anyone hasn't got the SEASONS album; but if not, there are two copies (unplayed) available at £3.50 post paid.

And there remain the 3 copies of the American HEY JUDE/HEY BING album (eight titles) at, also £3.50 post paid.

One copy of the LIVE AT THE PALLADIUM double album, £4.00 post paid.

IT WILL BE A CASE OF "FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED" I'm afraid.....

MR. B. BOSWELL, 228 High St. Chadwell Heath, Essex has LIVE AT THE PALLADIUM double, and SINGALONG WITH BING on Pickwick...offers?

MIKE SLIPMAN (LEGEND MUSIC) 153 FRANCKLYN GARDENS, EDGWARE, MIDD'X HA8 8SB

Mike has proved a boon to our members: here is a selection of the records available. Post and packing for 1 LP is 65p; two LPs is 90p plus 30p for each additional record.

Available to special order: KING COMEDY ASSOCIATES presents BOB HOPE & HIS FRIENDS - Bing singing BUTTONS & BEAUS, PLEASE, SWINGING ON A STAR, THANKS FOR THE MEMORY, WHITE CHRISTMAS, PUT IT THERE PAL: TEAMWORK, ROAD TO MORROCCO. Altho' we're taking orders for this set, which comes in a wooden frame package, we're awaiting price details from America. Expected to be around £17 but send SAE for full details - and lists of records available apart from those listed here.

SPOKANE 17:	BING IN THE HALL	£5.50 + P & P
MAGIC AWE 1	BING'S MAGIC (see KEEPING TRACK feature)	£4.50
MF 210	THE GREAT XMAS SHOW: GUESTS LINDSAY CROSBY JAMES STEWART	£5.50 + P & P
TANDEM 1903	SINATRA, BING, GARLAND	£5.50 + P & P
MF 207/5	BOXED SET: 10 PHILCO SHOWS (reduced price)	£15.75 incl. P & P
RADIOLA 1100	COMMAND PERFORMANCE: BING, SINATRA and many others	£5.50 + P & P
Bansard 601	BING CROSBY WITH DUKE ELLINGTON & NAT KING COLE (reduced price)	£5.00 + P & P
Yeddo 83	BING & JIMMY DURANTE plus on Side 2 RADIO CAVALCADE 1936 with Kay Thompson, Dick Powell Joan Blondell, Gertrude Niessen	Only £5.00 + P & P
RCA LSP 1854	FANCY MEETING YOU HERE Bing /Rosie, original cover, stereo SPECIAL OFFER ONLY	£3.50 + P & P
LIBERTY 16002	ROAD TO HONG KONG (reduced price)	£5.00 + P & P
WONDER LP 79	BING CROSBY: MOTHER GOOSE	£4.50 + P & P
WONDER LP 121	BING CROSBY: HOW LOVELY IS CHRISTMAS	£4.50 + P & P
WONDER LP 314	BING CROSBY: ALI BABA	£4.50 + P & P
	(Note all 3 WONDERS purchased together £12.00 + P & P)	
JAZZUM 39	BING CROSBY 1931 - 1932 Vol 1	£6.00 + P & P
JAZZUM 40	BING CROSBY 1931 - 1932 Vol 2	£6.00 + P & P
CAPITOL SM 11938	CROSBY GANG SINGALONG LP; reissue of Warner Bros. LPs listed on page 149 of LPography WM4021,4034, 4036, includes TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME, MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS, ETC.	£4.50 + P & P
CAPITOL SM 11739	VOL 2 incl. SHINE ON HARVEST MOON, HARRIGAN, SWEET ADELINE, HELLO MY BABY, DRINK TO ME ONLY	£4.50 + P & P

We have no commercial tie-up with Mike except that he is one source for obtaining imported records not otherwise easily obtainable. He deals, of course, in the albums of other artists besides Bing. Lists available on receipt of SAE.

CAPITOL SM 11740	VOL 3 SINGALONG - LITTLE ANNIE ROONEY, O SOLE MIO SANTA LUCIA, POLLYWOLLYDOODLE &c.	£4.50 + P & P
MCA 177	SHILLELAGHS & SHAMROCKS (reduced price)	£4.25 + P & P
MCA	WHEN IRISH EYES ARE SMILING	£4.25 + P & P
	(above 2 purchased together only £8.00 + P & P	
SOUNDTRACK 104	BLUE SKIES (ORIG. SOUNDTRACK)	£5.0 + P & P
SOUNDTRACK 112	HOLIDAY INN (ORIG. SOUNDTRACK)	£5.50 + P & P
SUNBEAM 502	DISTINCTLY BING VOL 1 Reduced	£5.00 + P & P
SUNBEAM 504	DISTINCTLY BING VOL 2 Reduced	£5.00 + P & P
CSP CE E 201	THE BING CROSBY STORY 2-LP set	£8.50 + P & P
MCFM 2775	BING & CO. special offer	£3.00 + P & P

SPOKANE 13: KRAFT MUSIC HALL 1942. SPOKANE 14 BING IN 30's Vol 2: SPOKANE 16 MUSIC HALL HIGHLIGHTS (ALL SPOKANES £5.50 + P & P)

WRITE FOR LISTS! WRITE FOR LISTS! WRITE FOR LISTS! WRITE FOR LISTS!

I RECOGNISE THAT VOICE *******

by KEITH PARKINSON

In recent years, the disembodied voice of Bing has been featured on the soundtracks of films in which he has not appeared. Listed below, in alphabetical order, are those I know of:

THE BRINKS JOB (1978) This film, based on fact and about a bank robbery begins in 1944 and in an early scene set in Boston the American Decca recording of ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE, sung by Bing and the Andrews Sisters, is heard. This servces to indicate the era without resorting to a lot of establishing-dialogue. At the end of the film the same recording is heard as the gang of robbers featured in the film ascend the courthouse steps for a trial prior to inevitable imprisonment.

BROTHER CAN YOU SPARE A DIME? (1975) Fully detailed at the time of its first showing in an earlier issue of BING, Bing's recording of the title song and WHERE THE BLUE OF THE NIGHT are used in conjunction with newsreel footage.

F.I.S.T. (1978) In this film starring Sylvester Stallone and Rod Steiger the story concerns the forty-year growth of an American labour union. In the early part of the film the American Decca recording of SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN by Bing and the Andrews Sisters is played. In the scene in which it is featured it is on the radio when a Chicago business man is visited during the Christmas holiday by union representatives.

THE MAN WHO FELL TO EARTH (1976) Bing sings the Capitol recording of TRUE LOVE at the end of the film in a scene where Candy Clark and David Bowie go together to an apartment with Bowie wearing a Father Christmas outfit.

PAPER MOON (1973): Peter Bogdanovith's film relies solely on commercial recordings and radio programmes of the time to provide background music for the film, which is set in the USA in the 1930's. Bing's recording of JUST ONE MORE CHANCE is featured.

RICHARD HAMILTON (1969): This is an Arts Council of Great Britain sponsored twenty-five minute short devoted to the works of artist Richard Hamilton. The only song heard in the film is WHITE CHRISTMAS sung by Bing. It is used to illustrate Hamilton's painting "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas". The painting is of Bing in negative and the effects of colour reversal create a snow scene impression on the well-known Crosby features.

TRACKS (1976): Made in the USA and starring Dennis Hopper, director Henry Jaglom makes use of two of Bing's American Decca recordings: THESE FOOLISH THINGS and THERE'LL BE A HOT TIME IN THE TOWN OF BERLIN, the latter performed with the Andrews Sisters. Set in 1973, the story concerns Hopper journeying by train across country with a coffin containing the body of an army friend killed in Vietnam. Hopper reminisces about his childhood and the flashback sequences are highlighted by music of the period. Astaire, Sinatra, Dinah Shore, etc. are also heard on the soundtrack.

****

Keith's interesting notes make an easy introduction to a brief:

BING ON THE BOX - Just when we were thinking it had been a blank time for Bing films on the television, amidst the welter of the Test Match and the Olympic Games, BBC-2 TV without warning produced a quite unprecedented performance: two Bing films, ONE AFTER THE OTHER, on Saturday 2nd July. They were, of course, ROAD TO MOROCCO and ROAD TO HONG KONG....quite remarkable.

The next day, Sunday 3rd July, saw the third instalment of the series shewn on ITV - AND THE BANDS PLAYED ON. This is a most enjoyable series dealing with what is known as the "Golden Age of British Dance Bands" and simulates the music of Ambrose, Lew Stone, Roy Fox, Harry Roy, Sydney Lipton, Maurice Winnick and others. In addition, it has interviews with old-time luminaries such as Nat Gonella, Tiny Winters, Roy Fox - and on this particular Sunday, Sam Costa. Many members may not be aware that aeons ago Sam Costa was a singer and pianist, playing with several of the big dance bands in the 30's and 40's. And this programme dealt with THE CROONERS! of that age. Not surprisingly, the programme opened with a 'still' picture of Bing whilst his record of LEARN TO CROON was played.

During the course of his interview with Gerald Harper, the presenter, Sam Costa exclaimed "Bing was our God! Everyone tried to sing like Bing....none succeeded, but he completely and utterly dominated the scene in the 30's...."

Then there was the news-bulletin story on TV about China - introduced to the accompaniment of Bing singing ON A SLOW BOAT TO CHINA - with Peggy Lee, we think!

But the Sunday night half-hours on BBC-2 Radio remain the bumper attraction. How could they be otherwise with not only Bing singing great songs but with guests of the calibre we have already mentioned (last issue) and Gary Cooper, James Stewart (singing about his being a wolf!) Only once did the standard seem to slip slightly; the programme with Ozzie and Harriet Nelson sounded as if it had been put together about 5 minutes before they recorded it! Happily, Bing sang as well as ever despite this.

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AND A "STOP PRESS" HELPING OF "KEEPING TRACK" ***** by BERT BISHOP

As already indicated in the earlier part of KEEPING TRACK, there are no 'regular' issues to report - and scarcely anything on the immediate horizon. So this is mainly concerned with air-shot material and re-issues though a few 'under license' releases are about. You will have seen the Editor's reference in TRADING POST of an album that has mysteriously turned up - MCA (US) 3031. No doubt someone will be able to tell us about it and how copies came to reach the UK. The cover is green and the motif that was used on the sleeves of the Autobiography set of 5 LPs in the 50's, and since reissued. Details of tracks are in TRADING POST.

Let me make two corrections to releases discussed in the last BING: page 13, FIRST HEARD - SENTIMENTAL THING FH31 Bing sings the air-shot ANYTIME. Reference to the page in question shows I entitled this LP as SENTIMENTAL BING. Not so, and I withdraw the misleading statement! Page 14, "40 GALA PERFORMANCES" PLD 8006 is a UK release, not US as stated. Right.

Next, a handsome boxed set - and you will see most of these items listed in MIKE SLIPMAN'S LISTING on another page -

THE BOB HOPE COLLECTION King of Comedy Associates KOC 1226 3-LP set US

From: (Album title) PO Box 6326, Denver, Colorado 80206 USA
Price 29.95 dollars PLUS postage, but see MIKE SLIPMAN.

Side 1: Buttons & Bows
Please
Swinging on a Star
Thanks for the Memory

White Christmas
Put it there, Pal.

Side 4: Team Work
Road to Morocco

(Cont over

Only the Bing content is listed as is usual in these columns but the remainder of the collection features 'Ski-Nose' with many of his contemporaries. With the set is a really nice 5-page book full of great photographs, Bing included of course. A large photo of the star of the collection adorns the frontispiece and is designed to fit into a solid teak frame supplied as part of the box - either to stand or to hang. I'm sure that Bing would have recommended 'hanging' as the obvious choice! As the blurb states 'First time on LP' then it must be reasonably asumed that the contents are taken from radio and/or TV.

THE BING CROSBY COLLECTION Tee Vee International TA 1078 Canada.

McNamara's Band
Play a simple Melody
Gone Fishin'
Just one more Chance
Blue Skies
As-cent-chuate the Positive
On the Aitchison, Topeka & Santa Fe
Don't Fence Me in
Far Away Places
Too-ra-loo-ra-loo-ral
Dear Hearts & Gentle people
Road to Morocco
South America Take it Away
Aren't you glad you're you?
Where the blue of the night
The Bells of St. Mary's
Put it there, Pal
Swinging on a Star
Sunday, Monday or Always.
I surrender, dear.
Moonlight becomes you
I'll be seeing you.

All commercial recordings on special release from MCA - as MCA used to be! As things stand in the world of record companies we may well have seen the last of this or any other kind of Bing recording (see Editorial, p. 6)

BING CROSBY AND DUKE ELLINGTON/BING CROSBY & NAT KING COLE Bonsard 601 US 'Amalgamated Morser)

Ac-cent-chuate the positive
There goes that song again
Running Wild
Frankie & Johnny
You've got me where you want me
Let's take the long way home.
I'm a little on the lonely side
Bye and bye
After a while
Paper Moon
You belong to my heart
You lucky people, you.
If you can't cry
Sweet Georgia Brown
Love thy Neighbour
May I?
Goodnight, Lovely little lady

In this instance, not all the tracks quoted are by Bing, but as there is some doubt on a few of the less obvious titles they are all listed. The sleeve has photo graphs of Bing with each of the two artists with whom he is featured on this radio-material album.

THE BIG BROADCAST OF 1932 Sandyhook Records (Distributor: Radiola) SH 2007 US

This original film soundtrack has already been released on the Soundtrak label and only the sleeve is different. Bing's songs are WHERE THE BLUE OF THE NIGHT: I SURRENDER DEAR, DINAH: HERE LIES LOVE: I'VE GOT FIVE DOLLARS: AND PLEASE. Other radio luminaries of the period also feature prominently.

ONE HOUR FROM THE BING CROSBY RADIO SHOWS Golden Age Records GA 5023 US

Original radio broadcasts: Bing is heard with such as Judy Garland, Bob Hope, Jimmy Durante, Mills Bros., Maurice Chevalier, the Andrews Sisters and others, on fairly familiar tracks that turn up with increasing and rather monotonous regularity. With several hundred shows to select from it could be suggested that more imagination might be shewn - such as in two recent UK radio material LPs, e.g. BING'S PARTY and BING'S MAGIC (again, see Mike Slipman's listing: It is important to note the countryof origin of these records and realise that they are NOT to be seen in ordinary record shops, unless they are particularly caring and adventurous! We list them to let members know what is happening in the world at large!)

RARE 1930's BROADCASTS Amagamated Yeddo 83 US Morser

Side 2 of another example of radio repetition is entitled Bing and Jimmy Durante. Bing with the Schnoz has been well catered for and there cannot

be much left that's new - tho' I findCrosby/Durante funnier than Crosby/Hope on radio. The humour of Bing and Jimmy survives the decades, whereas Bing and Bob's jibes about each other's dress and physical defects have become quite limp with the passage of time.

BING CROSBY HISTORICAL SOCIETY VOL 2 7" US

Anthem of the Clams — What do I like you?
I've got a gkrl — It might as well be Spring(G. Burns)

This further release from the well-established BCHS falls brlow the standard of compilation and fidelity that one expects of such a worthy body of US collectors. The first song is a 'varsity type recording type recording by Bing that was well worth releasing on disc; but thereafter the record is on somewhat shaky ground. It says on the cover that Bing and Al Rinker's first recording is presented for the first time at the correct speed and with its correct title. Whilst a marginal difference in tempo can be noted - nothing that couldn't be achieved by a touch of the 78 turntable speed regulator - I would challenge the suggestion that I'VE GOT THE GIRL has always been incorrect. The title appears on records and song sheets of the period. Perhaps the Society will tell us the reason for their claims; surely not the dubious memory of Alton Rinker, nor the fact that he and Bing sing I'VE GOT A GIRL; Bing and his confreres were often at variance with written lyrics. There were 1000 copies of WHY DO I LIKE YOU? issued; could not the Society have found a better one from which to dub? A rare recording marred by poor transference. Finally, the Geo. Burns comedy item has already been released on official LP sets. A great opportunity is in the hands of US collectors to bring members some rare and classic Crosby. I do hope that Vol 3 is more in keeping with their aims - and ability.

Omitted from BING ON THE BOX was the item seen by housewives, redundantees, senior citizens, night-workers (it was shewn during the afternoon!) was Bing's narration/singing in THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW.....

REACHING FOR THE MOON When the folks up high do the mean low-down. Is this the first Bing featured video cassette available in the UK over the counter? Not being into video, as they say, the question is innocently asked. However, I'm told that this cassette can be bought at record shops and ordered thro' Pye Records. Cost will be around £30 to £40 no doubt, but there are two feature films and sull supporting programme on it. The interest lies in Bing's 1930 film which starred Douglas Fairbanks and Bebe Daniels. Just a brief appearance from the full-time Rhythm Boy but enough to give a great chorus of a very lively ditty (heard in sound only, of course, on the Biograph WHERE THE BOUE OF THE NIGHT album)

* * * * * * * * * * *

Bing told in his book CALL ME LUCKY the fight he had with his sponsors to pre-record his radio shows. There was considerable opposition; but Bing's case was that he could get a better show by cutting out afterwards parts that weren't so good, he could put several shows together at one session and be not, therefore, so much restricted in his unbelievably busy schedule. The fight was hard - and its strange to think that these days, both on radio and TV, apart from news bulletins and some dee-jays, almost everything we see and hear is pre-recorded.

And we often reflect on the legacy of great songs/shows Bing has left to the world. That legacy would have been considerably diminished if Bing hadn't won that fight! Its quite a thought; a lot of records would not now be available - AND, we wouldn't be getting those delightful Sunday kight half-hours nearly 40 years after they were first performed!

And with that thought we leave you until the scheduled Christmas issue.

******

Aug 1980

PLEASE SUBMIT ALL BIDS TO: TOMMY NORTHROPE, 90 LLOYD ST, WEST HEIDELBERG, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA. 3081

1. Decca FR12-1581 When Irish Eyes are smiling 2.Vocalion VL36002/V Bing Crosby sings (½ record)
3. Festival 12-1003 Anything Goes 4. Festival 12-1603 Club Durant 5. Fest. FL7063 That Xmas feeling.
6. Fest. FL7073 Bing in Paris 7. Fest. FGL12-981 High Tor 8. Fest. FR12-1263 Songs I wish I'd sung.
9. Columbia 330SX 7506 White Xmas 10. Capitol W750 High Society 11. Verve MGV 2020 Bing sings whilst Bregman swings 12. Bell BM12-132 Jack-B-Nimble 13. Bell BM12-118 A Christmas story 14. Bell BM12-119 Ali Baba 15.Decca DL 8575 New Tricks 16. CBS KLP677 Crosby Classics 17. RCA L10374 Bing with a beat
18. RCA L10621 Fancy meeting You Here 19. Fest. FR12-1435 A Xmas sing with Bing 20. Harmony HL7147 The boy friends 21. RCA RD 27075 Young Bing Crosby 22. Warner Bros.W1363 Singalong favourites
23. Warner Bros.W1401-1 Gang songs (Vol 1) 24. Warner Bros. W1401-2 More gang songs (Vol2)
25. MGM 02-7567 Bing and Satchmo 26. Fest. FL30007/8 Face to face 27. MGM 868E1 Senor Bing
28. Philips BBL 2335 Say one for me 29. AofH AH 1 Old Masters Vol 1 30.RCA 27225 Bix B. Legend
31. CS 100 Singalong with Bing 32. Warner Bros. W1484 I wish you a Merry Xmas 33. Bruns. LAT 8505 Holiday in Europe. 34. Decca LK-R-4427 Road to Hong Kong 35. W.B. W1482 On the happy side
36. M 99500 DL & S 88000 DY All Star Festival 37. Fest.TL 31,206 My Favourite story 38. Reprise Finian's Rainbow 39.Reprise 6106 Return to paradise islands 40. Reprise F2022 12 songs of Xmas
41. Reprise F2021 Robin and the 7 hoods 42. Reprise F2020 America i hear you singing 43. RCA LOC 1090 Les Poupee's de Paris 44. United Artists UA UXL4 3 Billion Millionaires 45. RCA LOC 1011 Show Biz
46. Capitol T2300 That travelling two beat 47. Capitol T2346 Great country hits 48. AH90 Among my souvenirs 49. AH 40 The early 30's vol 1 50. Parlophone PMC 7006 Voices of the singing 20's 51. Reprise F2016 Guys and dolls 52. Verve MGV 2020 Bing sings whilst Bregman swings 53. Longinnes LW224 Bing Crosby's all time hit parade 54. WLSM 5 Bible story of Xmas 55. CSM 388 Great songs of Xmas
56. Decca DL4264 Anything goes 57. Fest. FL 30917 Anything goes 58. Fest. FL30913 Anything goes
59. ML 4813 The Bix Beiderbecke Story (3) 60. AH 136 Ichabod 61. AH 139 Bing sings for children
62. AH 164 Rare style 63. CP/1A (private) Bouncing with Bing 64. RCA LPV 545 1927 65. Decca DL30373 The happy prince 66. CBS 2BP220025 Bing Crosby in Hollywood 67. IARJC 2 Intl. Assoc of JAzz Coll. (Sunny side of street) 68. Pickwick PIP6802 Thoroughly modern Bing 69. Epic - The Bing Crosby Story
70. LP 2000 A.S.P. Chesterfield Show 71. SL 10257 Thoroughly modern Bing 72. DL 724523 Longinnes
73. Amos 7001 Hey Jude Hey Bing 74. Wallaby Prelude to immortality 75. Bruns. Bing 3 Pocketful of dreams 76. LP 2001 A.S.P. Philco show 77. DL 4487 Family Xmas favourites 78. DEA 7-1 Those Wonderful 30's 79. Tribute Rec. What child is this 80. Evans/Blake Carpets Goldilocks
81. Evolution 2009 Great moments in radio 82. Long. Golden moments from the telephone hour
83. Divergent 301 The Victorious Bix 1 84. Divergent 302 The Victorious Bix 2 85. Asco A-110 John McCormack 86. Fleetwood Baseball - the 1st 100 years 87. EMI 3XX 1635 Trib. to Michael Holiday (*)
88. RCA RD 8090 Paul WHiteman Vol 2 89. Verve MGVS 6067 (Gary Crosby only) The Happy bachelor
90. Copy 378 (Dick Tracy) + 1 disc blow ups 91. Disneyland ST3998 Goldilocks 92. Joker SM 3053 The Jazzin' Bing Crosby 93. Summitt SRA250536 Around the world 94. Daybreak DR 2006 A time to be jolly
95. Summit SRA 255510 Crosby Classics 96. RCA LBV584 Wrap your troubles in dreams 97. Hammont 30549 Golden moments from the silver screen 98. AH 145 Beloved Hymns 99. Decca DEA 22 Those wonderul 30's (no-Bing) 100. Decca DEA 7-3 Those wonderful 30's (B. of night) 101. Harmony HS11353 Great moments from old time radio 102. Little David LD1001 Geraldine 103. Daybreak DR 2014 Bing and Basie
104. Coral CPS 79 I love you truly 105. Coral CPS 81 Rhythm on the range 106. Coral CPS 80 Bing and the Andrews sisters Vol 1 107. Summit XM399001 White Xmas 108. AH17 Old Masters Vol 2 109. AH 24 Old Masters Vol 3 110. Sagapan 6904 Louis Armstrong Vol 2 (? Bing) 111. Coral CSP 91 Bing and the Andrews sisters Vol 2 112. Coral CSP 90 I'll sing you a song of the islands 113. Historia H - 640 Hollywood film music of the 30's. 114. Columbia CSS 1507 The Great Big Band Vocalists 115. Columbia 931213 Big Band Hits Vol 2 116. Startone ST 206 Singing troubadors on the air 117. Startone ST 205 Hollywood on the air - the feminine touch 118. MCA MAPS 6328 A nostalgic hour of Bing Crosby
119. Pelican 104 Soft lights and sweet music 120. MCA MCAS 002 Remember when 121. AH 31 Bing and the Dixieland bands 122. WG 971-1 Proudly wear the green 123. ? San Francisco experience 124. Coral COPS 6288 Golden favourites 125. Startone ST 201 Judy Garland '35 - '51 126. MCA MAPS1707 Shillelaghs and Shamrocks 127. Family SFR DP 655 Louis Armstrong & Bing live 128. Ho Ho Ho Records Bing & Frank Xmas eve 129. Paramount 34951 Paper MOon 130. Raretone RTR 24004 The Columbian Bix 131. Critter CBHC 8901 Bing and Hoppy 132. Biograph BLP-C13 Rare early recordings 133. Coral CPA 112 Bing & Andrews Sisters Vol 3 134. Coral CPA 113 Day Dreaming 135. Startone ST 212 A handful of harmony 136. Startone ST 210 Music Maestro please 137. Radiola 3 & 4 Hollywood is on the air 138. Windmill WMD 190 Louis Armstrong an d Bing on stage 139. Totem LP 1002 Philco Radio 140. Totem LP 1003 Old time minstrel show 141. Totem 1007 Bing and Al 142. Totem LP 1008 WOodbury show 143. Broadway 102 The Unheard Bix 144. WM 1973 Francis Ethel Gumm & Harry Lilis Crosby 145. Jazum 15 (Happy Feet from KOJ) 146. Nostalgia 005 Paul WHiteman 70th Birthday 147. His 1941 World War II 148. Totem 1004 She loves me not
149. Memorabilia MLP 722 When radio was king 150. Startone ST 208 Judy Garland musical scrapbook
151. Startone ST 213 Judy & Partners in rhythm 152. BJ 202 Christmas Star 153. Soundtrak ST 101 Big Broadcast 154. Curtain Calls 100/1 Dick Tracy in B-Flat 155. Curtain Calls Both sides of BB
156. Tap Time 142 Top Hat WHite Tie and Golf Shoes 157. Frankenzudeutch MDTB05 Bings Beaus
158. Startone ST 219 Betty Grable 159. Totem LP 1009 Bing Bob and Judy 160. Radiola 2MR 2526 The Amos and Andy story 161. Startone ST 215 Academy award winners on air 162. MGM E3873 Pres. the Crosby Bros. 163. MCA 2 11002 That's entertainment 164. Memorbbilia MLP 705 When radio was king
165. W.B. BS 2584 Discover America 166. Radiola MR 1033 The Andrews Sisters on radio 167. Startone ST 225 Bing and Mary 168. Joker SM 3612 Frank and Bing 169. Festival DL 31575 Bing Goes Hawaiian
170. Wimp Dick Powell & Bing 171. Radiola MR 1044 Bob Hope & Bing 172. Radiola MR 1010 Judy Garland on radio 173. Tulip TLP 108 Music Hall and Command Perf. 174. Avenue Intl. 1018 B.C. at his extra Speciale. 175. Curtain Call Star Spangled rhythm 176. MCA COPS 7751 Mr Crosby and Mr Mercer
177. Trible B T 1001 Roberto Clemento Memorial Album 178. MCA MCFM Bing sings the great songs
179. Windmill WMD 260 B.C. Favourite melodies 180. Muridec 30 CU 1356 B.C. Greatest hits
181. Encore STS101 Merman in the movies 1930 - 38 182. RCA FXMI 7092 The Bix Beiderbecke legend Vol135
183. Totel 1016 Bing and Al 184. Totem 1013 Bing and Al 185. Totem 1015 Bing and Al 186. Joker SM 3563 Bixology Vol 7 187. Joker SM 3364 Vol 8 188.SM 3365 Vol 9 189. SM 3366 Vol 10 190. SM 3367 Vol 11 191. United Artists UAG 297310 That's what life etc. 192. Ultimo KAT 406 Kay Thompson Review
193. United Artists UAS 29888 A couple of song and dance men 194. London SHU 8489 Southern Memoir
195. Jazum 39 Bing Crosby 196. Jazum 40 Bing Crosby 197. Sunbeam HB 309 The Dinah Shore/BC shows
198. United Artists UAS 29885 Fred Astaire Attitude Dancing 199. Metro 2356-141 The Special Magic of BC
200. Vocalion VLP 1 Many happy returns 201. Totem 1017 Bing and Al 202. Sountrak STR 104 Blue Skies
203. L 35884 At my time of life 204. Totem 1022 BC on the air Vol 2 205. Spokane 2 KMH 12 March 42
206. Spokane 3 KMH 30 April 42 207. Spokane 4 KMH 16 April 42 208. Spokane 6 Happy Holiday
209. Spokane 8 Sing you sinners 210. Spokane 9 Birth of blues 211. Gala GLP351 Ali Baba 212. Fest 214 Hollywood story 213. SKL 5261 Feels good feels right 214. K-Tel NE 951 BC live at Palladium
215. RCA DPS 2066 This is BC 216. Outtake OTF 2 217. RCA PL12086 A legendary performer 218/BIB1935 Big Broadcast of 1935. 219. Jay Norris MCR MF 707 The greatest hits of BC 220. SHU 8499 Bingo Viejo
221, Radiola MR 1066 The magic radio 222. MCFM 2739 Connee Boswell 223. Sunbeam HB 312 Orville Knapp.
224. Pickwick SPC 3530 Seems like old times 225. Spokane 11 KMH 226. MAPS 8505 Bing and Co.
227. United Artists UAS 30116 Beautiful memories 228. Polydor 2383 478 Seasons 229. Decca DBC1/2 Bing 1931 - 1975/76 230. Brad 10514-545 Frank & Bing 231. Brad 10520-521 B.C. 232. SL5179 The wit and wonder of Judy Garland 233. United ARtists EAG 30142 Joe Bushkin 234. Sunbeam P502 Distinctively Bing Vol 1 235. Sunbeam P502 Dist. Bing Vol 2 236. Spokane 10 Der Bingle Vol 2
237. Concord Jazz C550 Tribute to Duke Ellington 238. Columbia 35093 A BC Collection Vol 1
239. Columbia 35094 A BC Collection Vol 2 240. Citadel CT6029 Conversations in Hollywood

241. Andros ANDS4566 The Andrews Sisters live 242. DeBaron GROUCH 47 Three Giants. 243. BGMM42 Those Fantastic Blonde Bombshells. 244. Limited Edition - the Kraft 75th anniversary album. 245. ??? The World in Sound 1977. 246 Anahuc 3901 Bingo Viejo. 247. Oxford OX 3050 The Many Faces of B.G. 248. Concorde CJ 60 Rosie sings Bing. 249. MCA3162 (Japaness) Bing Sings Geo Gershwin. 250. One-Up (EMI) OU2205 A tribute to Bing from Mike, 251. CSL 0081 Stars on Sunday. 252.Legend 1000/4 Dorothy Lamour. 253. Aust. Sinatra Society. The Bing Crosby Show. 254. Spokane 15 Music Hall Highlights. 255. Philips 6641-923 Songs of a lifetime. 256. Legends 1000/4 Dorothy Lamour. 257. MCA 0082-060 Star Gold 258.Radiola Command Perf.Victory Extra. . 259. Tandem LP Mail Call 260.Somelievre Memoria. The Big Six 261.Spokane KMH 24 Dec 1942. 262. Hammard 042 Do you know its Xmas? (3 copies). 263. MF 210 The Greatest Xmas Shows. 264. Collectors Gold 598 White Xmas (Bing & Rosie) 265.Columbia 35478 A B.C. COLLECTION VOL 3 266. MF 207/5 The Greatest radio broadcasts. 267. Soundtrak ST.112 Holiday Inn 268.AH 88 Bing in the early 30's Vol 2. 269.Calendar R66-2 East Side of Heaven

The following are albums sets: 270.Longines The best of the telephone hour. 271. Longines BC Treasury, The Songs I love. 272 Readers Digest, BING SINGS. 273.World Record Club The Best of Bing. 274. HMV OCLP 7507/8 Paul Whiteman's 50th anniversary. 275. Argo ZSW561-3 Tom Sawyer. 276.Longines Jack Benny's Golden memories of radio. 277. Murray Hill 894637 Bing Crosby and friends.

BOOKS:

1. BING. Ted & Larry Crosby.
2. THE COMPLETE CROSBY (hard cover) Chas. Thompson.
3. CALL ME LUCKY (Hard cover) Bing.
4. CALL ME LUCKY (soft cover) Bing.
5. I never left Home: Bob Hope
6. The Story of Bing Crosby: Ted Crosby
7. Crosby. Barbara Bauer
8. My life with...Carroll Carroll
9. The fabulous life of Bing Crosby: Geo. Carpozzi
10. THE ONE AND ONLY BING (first copy) Bob Thomas
11. The Complete Crosby (soft cover) Chas. Thompson
12. Bing. (Chas Thompson)
13. Bing & other Things: Kathryn Crosby
14. The Incredible Crosby Barry Ulanov
15. The One and Only Bing (2nd copy) Bob Thomas
16. The Films of Bing Crosby
17. Come up and see me sometime, Mae West/David Henna
18. Louis. Max Jones and John Chilton.
19. Bix - Man and legend. Richard Sudhalter.
20. This for Remembrance Rosemary Clooney
21. Daily Mail book of Golden Discs.
22. The Great American Popular Singers.
23. Sinatra and the Great Song Stylists; Ken Barnes
24. Guinness Book of Records.
25. The Films of Bing Crosby
26. Gotta sing, Gotta dance.
27. Call themIrreplaceable.
28. The Films of W.C.Fields.
29. All talking, all singing, all dancing.
30. A Pictorial history of the Talkies.

NOTE BY REG BRISTO.

All bids must be sent to the Australian address shewn. They should on no account be sent to me.

* A specimen sheet of the new hardback discography referred to on page 5 of this issue of BING is enclosed for members' enlightenment as to its style. *

NOTE BY TOM NORTHROPE (see head of page overleaf): All the records and books come from the estate of the late Keith Hyde. There are many rare and unusual items in the listings and it is hoped that bids for these items will reflect their true value. When bidding please quote ALL RELEVANT DETAILS LISTED.